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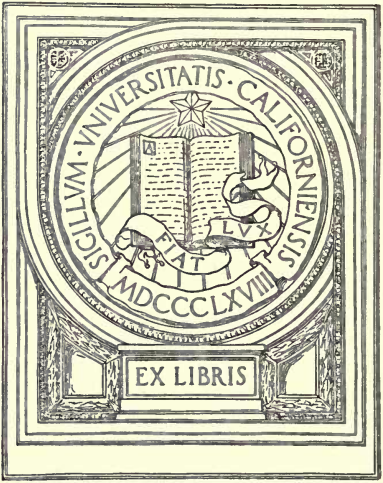

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MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

OF THE LATE

PHILIP DORMER STANHOPE,
EARL OF CHESTERFIELD:

CONSISTING OF

LETTERS TO HIS FRIENDS,

NEVER BEFORE PRINTED, AND VARIOUS OTHER ARTICLES,

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE,

TENDING TO ILLUSTRATE
THE CIVIL, LITERARY, AND POLITICAL,
HISTORY OF HIS TIME.

By *M. MATY*, M. D.
LATE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM,
AND SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

THE SECOND EDITION,
IN FOUR VOLUMES.

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

SIXTEEN CHARACTERS OF GREAT PERSONAGES
AND LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE SAME NOBLE EARL.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

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LORD CHESTERFIELD'S MISCELLANEOUS PIECES.

I.

FOG'S *JOURNAL**.

SATURDAY, Jan. 17, 1736. N° 376.

I AM not of the opinion of those who think that our ancestors were in every respect wiser than we, and who reject every new invention as chimerical, and brand it with the name of project. On the contrary, I am persuaded, that most things are still capable of improvement; for which reason I always give a fair and impartial hearing to all new proposals, and have often, in the course of my life, found great advantage by so doing.

I very early took Mr. Ward's Drop, notwithstanding the great discouragement it met with, in its infancy, from an honorable author, eminent for his political sagacity, who asserted it to be liquid Popery and

* This was one of the weekly publications against sir R. Walpole's administration. It was first intitled Mist's Journal. I suspect, that lord Chesterfield had, several times before, lent his hand to the writers of this witty paper; but I have no authority to assert it. This, and the two following essays, were generally allowed to be his.

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Jacobitism. I reaped great benefit from it, and recommended it to so many of my friends, that I question whether the author of that great specific is more obliged to any one man in the kingdom than myself, excepting one.

I have likewise, as well as my brother Caleb *, great hopes of public advantage, arising from the skill and discoveries of that ingenious operator, Dr. Taylor; notwithstanding the late objections of Mrs. Osborne †, and her most subtle distinctions between the eye politic, and the eye natural.

Some inventions have been improved ages after their first discovery, and extended to uses so obvious, and so nearly resembling those for which they were at first intended, that it is surprizing how they could have so long escaped the sagacity of mankind. For instance, printing, though used but within these few centuries, has in reality been invented thousands of years; and it is astonishing, that it never occurred to those, who first stampt images and inscriptions upon metals, to stamp likewise their thoughts upon wax, barks of trees, or whatever else they wrote upon.

This example should hinder one from thinking any thing brought to its *ne plus ultra* of perfection, when so plain an improvement lay for many ages undiscovered.

* The Craftsman, in which lord Bolingbroke was principally engaged, went under the name of Caleb D'Anvers esq.

† The signature to one of the ministerial papers being F. Osborne esq; (who was the eldest and gravest of their writers), his antagonists made an old woman of the author, and nick-named him Mother Osborne, under which title he figures in the second book of the Dunciad.

The

The scheme I am now going to offer to the public is of this nature, so very plain, obvious, and of such evident emolument, that I am convinced my readers will both be surprized and concerned, that it did not occur to every body, and that it was not put in practice many years ago.

I took the first hint of it from an account a friend of mine gave me of what he himself had seen practised with success at a foreign court; but I have extended it considerably, and I flatter myself, that it will, upon the strictest examination, appear to be the most practicable and useful, and, at this time, necessary project that has, it may be, ever been submitted to the public.

My friend, having resided some time at a very considerable court in Germany, had there contracted an intimacy with a German prince, whose dominions and revenues were as small as his birth was great and illustrious; there are some few such in the august Germanic body. This prince made him promise, that whenever he should return to England, he would take him in his way, and make him a visit in his principality. Accordingly, some time afterwards, about two years ago, he waited upon his serene highness; who, being apprized a little beforehand of his arrival, resolved to receive him with all possible marks of honor and distinction.

My friend was not a little surprized, to find himself conducted to the palace through a lane of soldiers resting their firelocks, and the drums beating a march. His highness, who observed his surprize, and who, by the way, was a wag, after the

firſt compliments uſual upon ſuch occaſions, ſpoke very gravely to him thus:

"I do not wonder, that you, who are well informed of the narrowneſs both of my territories and my fortune, ſhould be aſtoniſhed at the number of my ſtanding forces; but I muſt acquaint you, that the preſent critical ſituation of my affairs would not allow me to remain defenceleſs, while all my neighbours were arming around me. There is not a prince near me, that has not made an augmentation in his forces, ſome of four, ſome of eight, and ſome even of twelve men; ſo that you muſt be ſenſible that it would have been conſiſtent neither with my honor nor ſafety, not to have increaſed mine. I have therefore augmented my army up to forty effective men, from but eight and twenty that they were before; but, in order not to overburden my ſubjects with taxes, nor oppreſs them by the quartering and inſolence of my troops, as well as to remove the leaſt ſuſpicion of my deſigning any thing againſt their liberties; to tell you the plain truth, my men are of wax, and exerciſe by clock-work. You eaſily perceive," added he ſmiling, "that, if I were in any real danger, my forty men of wax are juſt as good a ſecurity to me, as if they were of the very beſt fleſh and blood in Chriſtendom: as for dignity and ſhow, they anſwer thoſe purpoſes full as well; and in the mean time they coſt me ſo little, that our dinner will be much the better for it."

My friend reſpectfully ſignified to him his ſincere approbation of his wiſe and prudent meaſures, and

aſſured

assured me that he had never in his life seen finer bodies of men, better-sized, nor more warlike countenances.

The ingenious contrivance of this wise and warlike potentate struck me immediately, as a hint that might be greatly improved to the public advantage, and without any one inconvenience, at least that occurred to me. I have turned it every way in my thoughts with the utmost care, and shall now present it to my readers, willing however to receive any further lights and assistance from those who are more skilled in military matters than I am.

I ask but two *postulata*, which I think cannot be denied me; and then my proposal demonstrates its own utility.

First, That for these last five and twenty years, our land forces have been of no use whatsoever, nor even employed, notwithstanding the almost uninterrupted disturbances that have been in Europe, in which our interests have been as nearly concerned as ever they are likely to be for these five and twenty years to come.

Secondly, That our present army is a very great expence to the nation, and has raised jealousies and discontents in the minds of many of his majesty's subjects.

I therefore humbly propose, that, from and after the 25th day of March next, 1736, the present numerous and expensive army be totally disbanded, the commission officers excepted; and that proper persons be authorized to contract with Mrs. Salmon, for raising the same number of men in the best of wax.

That the ſaid perſons be likewiſe authorized to treat with that ingenious mechanic, Myn Heer Von Pinchbeck, for the clock-work neceſſary for the ſaid number of land-forces.

It appears from my firſt *poſtulatum*, that this future army will be, to all intents and purpoſes, as uſeful as ever our preſent one has been; and how much more beneficial it will be is what I now beg leave to ſhew.

The curious are often at great trouble and expence to make imitations of things, which things are to be had eaſier, cheaper, and in greater perfection themſelves. Thus infinite pains have been taken of late, but alas in vain, to bring up our preſent army to the nicety and perfection of a waxen one: it has proved impoſſible to get ſuch numbers of men, all of the ſame height, the ſame make, with their own hair, timing exactly together the ſeveral motions of their exerciſe, and, above all, with a certain military fierceneſs, that is not natural to Britiſh countenances: even ſome very conſiderable officers have been caſhiered, for wanting SOME OF THE PROPERTIES OF WAX.

By my ſcheme, all theſe inconveniencies will be entirely removed; the men will be all of the ſame ſize, and, if thought neceſſary, of the ſame features and complexion: the requiſite degree of fierceneſs may be given them, by the proper application of whiſkers, ſcars, and ſuch like indications of courage, according to the taſtes of their reſpective officers; and their exerciſe will, by the ſkill and care of Myn Heer Von Pinchbeck, be in the higheſt German taſte,

taſte, and may poſſibly arrive at the *one motion*, that great *deſideratum* in our diſcipline. The whole, thus ordered, muſt certainly furniſh a more delightful ſpectacle than any hitherto exhibited, to ſuch as are curious of reviews and military exercitations.

I am here aware that the grave Mrs. Oſborne will ſeriouſly object, that this army, not being alive, cannot be uſeful; and that the more lively and ingenious Mr. Walſingham * may poſſibly inſinuate, that a waxen army is not likely to ſtand fire well.

To the lady, I anſwer thus beforehand, that if, in the late times of war, our preſent army has been of no more uſe than a waxen one, a waxen one will now, in time of peace, be as uſeful as they; and as to any other reaſons, that ſhe or her whole ſex may have, for preferring a live ſtanding army to this, they are conſiderations of a private nature, and muſt not weigh againſt ſo general and public a good.

To the pleaſant 'ſquire I reply, that this army will ſtand its own fire very well; which is all that ſeems requiſite.

But give me leave to ſay too, that an army thus conſtituted will be very far from being without its terror, and will doubtleſs ſtrike all the fear that is conſiſtent with the liberties of a free people; wax, it is well known, being the moſt natural and ex-

* The Free Briton, by Francis Walſingham eſq; (publiſhed under the direction of ſir Robert Walpole), was written by William Arnall, who was bred an attorney, but commenced party-writer when under twenty. See the notes on the Dunciad, Book II; where Arnall is ſaid to have received, for Free Britons and other writings, in four years, the ſum of 10997*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* out of the treaſury.

preſſive imitation of life, as it unites in itſelf the different advantages of painting and ſculpture.

Our Britiſh monarchs in the Tower are never beheld but with the profoundeſt reſpect and reverence; and that bold and manly repreſentation of Henry the eighth never fails to raiſe the ſtrongeſt images of one kind or another in its beholders of both ſexes. Such is the force of divine right, though but in wax, upon the minds of all good and loyal ſubjects.

Nobody ever ſaw the court of France, lately exhibited here in wax-work, without a due regard; inſomuch that an habitual good courtier was obſerved reſpectfully bowing to their moſt Chriſtian majeſties, and was at laſt only convinced of his error by the ſilence of the court. An army of the ſame materials will certainly have ſtill a ſtronger effect, and be more than ſufficient to keep the peace, without the power of breaking it.

My readers will obſerve, that I only propoſe a reduction of the private men, for, upon many accounts, I would by no means touch the commiſſions of the officers. In the firſt place, they moſt of them deſerve very well of the public; and in the next place, as they are all in parliament, I might, by propoſing to deprive them of their commiſſions, be ſuſpected of political views, which I proteſt I have not. I would therefore deſire, that the preſent ſet of officers may keep the keys, to wind up their ſeveral regiments, troops, or companies; and that a maſter-key to the whole army be lodged in the hands of the general in chief for the time being, or, in default of ſuch, in the hands of the prime miniſter.

From

From my second *poſtulatum*, that the preſent army is expenſive, and gives uneaſineſs to many of his majeſty's good ſubjects, the further advantages of my ſcheme will appear.

The chief expence here will be only the prime coſt; and I even queſtion whether that will exceed the price of live men, of the height, proportions, and tremendous aſpects, that I propoſe theſe ſhould be of. But the annual ſaving will be ſo conſiderable, that I will appeal to every ſenſible and impartial man in the kingdom, if he does not ſincerely think that this nation would have been now much more flouriſhing and powerful, if, for theſe twenty years laſt paſt, we had had no other army.

Another conſiderable advantage conſiſts in the great care and convenience with which theſe men will be quartered in the countries; where, far from being an oppreſſion or diſturbance to the public houſes, they will be a genteel ornament and decoration to them, and, inſtead of being inflicted as a puniſhment upon the diſaffected, will probably be granted as a favour to ſuch inn-keepers as are ſuppoſed to be the moſt in the intereſt of the adminiſtration, and that too poſſibly with an excluſive privilege of ſhewing them. So that I queſtion, whether a certain great city may not be eloquently threatened with having no troops at all.

As I am never for carrying any project too far, I would, for certain reaſons, not extend this, at preſent, to Gibraltar, but would leave the garriſon there alive as long as it can keep ſo.

Let

Let nobody put the Jacobite upon me, and say, that I am paving the way for the pretender, by disbanding this army. That argument is worn threadbare; besides, let those take the Jacobite to themselves, who would exchange the affections of the people for the fallacious security of an unpopular standing army.

But, as I know I am suspected by some people to be no friend to the present ministry, I would most carefully avoid inserting any thing in this project that might look peevish, or like a design to deprive them of any of the necessary means of carrying on the government. I have therefore already declared, that I did not propose to affect the commissions of any of the officers, though a very great saving would arise to the public thereby. And I would further provide, that, in the disbanding the present army, an exact account should be taken of every soldier's right of voting in elections, and where; and that the like number of votes, and for the same places, shall be reserved to every regiment, troop, or company, of this new army; these votes to be given collectively, by the officers of the said regiment, troop, or company, in as free and uninfluenced a manner as hath at any time been practised within these last twenty years.

Moreover, I would provide, that *Mann* and *Day** shall, as at present, have the entire cloathing of this new army; so scrupulous am I of distressing the administration.

* Two very considerable woollen-drapers, in the Strand; the first of them was grandfather to sir Horatio Mann.

People

People are generally fond of their own projects, and, it may be, I look upon this with the partiality of a parent; but I protest I cannot find any one objection to it. It will save an immense expence to the nation, remove the fears that at present disturb the minds of many, and answer every one of the purposes to which our present army has been applied. The numbers will sound great and formidable abroad, the individuals will be gentle and peaceable at home; and there will be an increase to the public of above fifty thousand hands for labour and manufactures, which at present are either idle, or but scurvily employed.

I cannot, I own, help flattering myself, that this scheme will prevail, and the more so from the very great protection and success wax-work has lately met with; which, I imagine, was only as an essay or *tentamen* to some greater design of this nature. But, whatever be the event of it, this alternative I will venture to assert, that, by the 25th of March next, either the army or another body of men must be of wax.

II.

FOG'S *JOURNAL.*

SATURDAY, Jan. 24, 1736. N° 377.

HUMAN nature, though every where the same, is so seemingly diversified by the various habits and customs of different countries, and so blended with

with the early impreſſions we receive from our education, that they are often confounded together, and miſtaken for one another. This makes us look with aſtoniſhment upon all cuſtoms that are extremely different from our own, and hardly allow thoſe nations to be of the ſame nature with ourſelves, if they are unlike in their manners; whereas all human actions may be traced up to thoſe two great motives, the purſuit of pleaſure, and the avoidance of pain: and, upon a ſtrict examination, we ſhall often find, that thoſe cuſtoms, which at firſt view ſeem the moſt different from our own, have in reality a great analogy with them.

What more particularly ſuggeſted this thought to me, was an account which a gentleman, who was lately returned from China, gave, in a company where I happened to be preſent, of a pleaſure held in high eſteem, and extremely practiſed by that luxurious nation. He told us, that the tickling of the ears was one of the moſt exquiſite ſenſations known in China; and that the delight, adminiſtered to the whole frame through this organ, could, by an able and ſkilful tickler, be raiſed to whatever degree of extaſy the patient ſhould deſire.

The company, ſtruck with this novelty, expreſſed their ſurprize, as is uſual on ſuch occaſions, firſt by a ſilly ſilence, and then by many ſilly queſtions. The account too, coming from ſo far as China, raiſed both their wonder and their curioſity, much more than if it had come from any European country, and opened a larger field for pertinent queſtions. Among others, the gentleman was aſked, whether the Chineſe

ears

ears and fingers had the leaſt reſemblance to ours; to which having anſwered in the affirmative, he went on thus:

"I perceive, I have excited your curioſity ſo much by mentioning a cuſtom ſo unknown to you here, that I believe it will not be diſagreeable, if I give you a particular account of it.

"This pleaſure, ſtrange as it may ſeem to you, is in China reckoned almoſt equal to any that the ſenſes afford. There is not an ear in the whole country untickled; the ticklers have, in their turn, others who tickle them, inſomuch, that there is a circulation of tickling throughout that vaſt empire. Or if, by chance, there be ſome few unhappy enough not to find ticklers, or ſome ticklers clumſy enough not to find buſineſs, they comfort themſelves at leaſt with ſelf-titillation.

"This profeſſion is one of the moſt lucrative and conſiderable ones in China, the moſt eminent performers being either handſomely requited in money, or ſtill better rewarded by the credit and influence it gives them with the party tickled; inſomuch, that a man's fortune is made as ſoon as he gets to be tickler to any conſiderable mandarin.

"The emperor, as in juſtice he ought, enjoys this pleaſure in its higheſt perfection; and all the conſiderable people contend for the honor and advantage of this employment, the perſon who ſucceeds the beſt in it being always the firſt favourite, and chief diſpenſer of his imperial power. The principal mandarins are allowed to try their hands upon his majeſty's ſacred ears, and according to their dexterity

and

and agility, commonly rise to the posts of first ministers. His wives too are admitted to try their skill; and she among them, who holds him by the ear, is reckoned to have the surest and most lasting hold. His present imperial majesty's ears, as I am informed, are by no means of a delicate texture, and consequently not quick of sensation; so that it has proved extremely difficult to nick the tone of them: the lightest and finest hands have utterly failed; and many have miscarried, who, from either fear or respect, did not treat the royal ears so roughly as was necessary. He began his reign under the hands of a bungling operator, whom for his clumsiness he soon dismissed: he was afterwards attempted by a more skilful tickler; but he sometimes failed too, and, not being able to hit the humour of his majesty's ears, his own have often suffered for it.

"In this public distress, and while majesty laboured under the privation of auricular joys, the empress, who, by long acquaintance, and frequent little trials, judged pretty well of the texture of the royal ear, resolved to undertake it, and succeeded perfectly, by means of a much stronger friction than others durst either attempt, or could imagine would please.

"In the mean time, the skilful mandarin, far from being discouraged by the ill success he had sometimes met with in his attempts upon the emperor's ears, resolved to make himself amends upon his imperial consort's: he tried, and he prevailed; he tickled her majesty's ear to such perfection, that, as the emperor would trust his ear to none but the empress, she would trust hers to none but this light-fingered mandarin,

who,

who, by these means, attained to unbounded and uncontrouled power, and governed ear by ear.

"But, as all the mandarins have their ear-ticklers too, with the same degree of influence over them, and as this mandarin was particularly remarkable for his extreme sensibility in those parts, it is hard to say from what original titillation the imperial power now flows."

The conclusion of the gentleman's story was attended with the usual interjections of wonder and surprize from the company. Some called it strange, some odd, and some very comical: and those who thought it the most improbable, I found by their questions were the most desirous to believe it. I observed too, that, while the story lasted, they were most of them trying the experiment upon their own ears, but without any visible effect that I could perceive.

Soon afterwards, the company broke up; and I went home, where I could not help reflecting, with some degree of wonder, at the wonder of the rest, because I could see nothing extraordinary in the power which the ear exercised in China, when I considered the extensive influence of that important organ in Europe. Here, as in China, it is the source of both pleasure and power; the manner of applying to it is only different. Here the titillation is vocal, there it is manual, but the effects are the same; and, by the bye, European ears are not always unacquainted neither with manual application.

To make out the analogy I hinted at between the Chinese and ourselves in this particular, I will offer

to

to my readers ſome inſtances of the ſenſibility and prevalency of the ears of Great Britain.

The Britiſh ears ſeem to be as greedy and ſenſible of titillation as the Chineſe can poſſibly be; nor is the profeſſion of an ear-tickler here any way inferior, or leſs lucrative. There are of three ſorts, the private tickler, the public tickler, and the ſelf-tickler.

Flattery is, of all methods, the ſureſt to produce that vibration of the air, which affects the auditory nerves with the moſt exquiſite titillation; and, according to the thinner or thicker texture of thoſe organs, the flattery muſt be more or leſs ſtrong. This is the immediate province of the private tickler, and his great ſkill conſiſts in tuning his flattery to the ear of his patient; it were endleſs to give inſtances of the influence and advantages of thoſe artiſts who excel in this way.

The buſineſs of a public tickler is, to modulate his voice, diſpoſe his matter, and enforce his arguments in ſuch a manner as to excite a pleaſing ſenſation in the ears of a number or aſſembly of people: this is the moſt difficult branch of the profeſſion, and that in which the feweſt excel; but to the few who do it, is the moſt lucrative, and the moſt conſiderable. The bar has at preſent but few proficients of this ſort, the pulpit none, the ladder alone ſeems not to decline.

I muſt not here omit one public tickler of great eminency, and whoſe titillative faculty muſt be allowed to be ſingly confined to the ear; I mean the great ſignior Farinelli, to whom ſuch crowds reſort, for the extaſy he adminiſters to them through that organ, and who ſo liberally requite his labours, that,

if

if he will but do them the favour to ſtay two or three years longer, and have two or three benefits more, they will have nothing left but their ears to give him.

The ſelf-tickler is as unhappy as contemptible; for, having none of the talents neceſſary for tickling of others, and conſequently not worth being tickled by others neither, he is reduced to tickle himſelf: his own ears alone receive any titillation from his own efforts. I know an eminent performer of this kind, who, by being nearly related to a ſkilful public tickler, would fain ſet up for the buſineſs himſelf, but has met with ſuch repeated diſcouragements, that he is reduced to the mortifying reſource of ſelf-titillation, in which he commits the moſt horrid exceſſes.

Beſides the proofs abovementioned, of the influence of the ear in this country, many of our moſt common phraſes and expreſſions, from whence the genius of a people may always be collected, demonſtrate, that the ear is reckoned the principal and moſt predominant part of our whole mechaniſm. As for inſtance:

To have the ear of one's prince is underſtood by every body to mean having a good ſhare of his authority, if not the whole, which plainly hints how that influence is acquired.

To have the ear of the firſt miniſter is the next, if not an equal, advantage. I am therefore not ſurprized, that ſo conſiderable a poſſeſſion ſhould be ſo frequently attempted, and ſo eagerly ſollicited, as we may always obſerve it is. But I muſt caution the perſon, who would make his fortune in this way, to confine his attempt ſtrictly to the ear in the ſingular number; a deſign upon the ears, in the plural, of a

firſt miniſter being for the moſt part rather difficult and dangerous, however juſt.

To give ear to a perſon implies, giving credit, being convinced, and being guided by that perſon; all this by the ſucceſs of his endeavours upon that prevailing organ.

To lend an ear is ſomething leſs, but ſtill intimates a willingneſs and tendency in the lender to be prevailed upon by a little more tickling of that part. Thus the lending of an ear is a ſure preſage of ſucceſs to a ſkilful tickler. For example, a perſon, who lends an ear to a miniſter, ſeldom fails of putting them both in his power ſoon afterwards; and, when a fine woman lends an ear to a lover, ſhe ſhews a diſpoſition at leaſt to further and future titillation.

To be deaf, and to ſtop one's ears, are common and known expreſſions, to ſignify a total refuſal and rejection of a perſon or propoſition; in which caſe I have often obſerved the manual application to ſucceed by a ſtrong vellication or vigorous percuſſion of the outward membranes of the ear.

There cannot be a ſtronger inſtance of the great value that has always been ſet upon theſe parts, than the conſtant manner of expreſſing the utmoſt and moſt ardent deſire people can have for any thing, by ſaying they would "give their ears" for it; a price ſo great, that it is ſeldom either paid or required. Witneſs the numbers of people actually wearing their ears ſtill, who in juſtice have long ſince forfeited them.

Over head and ears would be a manifeſt *pleonaſmus*, the head being higher than the ears, were not the ears reckoned

reckoned so much more valuable than all the rest of the head, as to make it a true climax.

It were unnecessary to mention, as farther proofs of the importance and dignity of those organs, that pulling, boxing, or cutting off the ears, are the highest insults that choleric men of honor can either give or receive; which shews that the ear is the seat of honor as well as of pleasure.

The anatomists have discovered, that there is an intimate correspondence between the palm of the hand and the ear, and that a previous application to the hand communicates itself instantly, by the force and velocity of attraction, to the ear, and agreeably prepares that part to receive and admit of titillation. I must say too, that I have known this practised with success upon very considerable persons of both sexes.

Having thus demonstrated, by many instances, that the ear is the most material part in the whole mechanism of our structure, and that it is both the seat and source of honor, power, pleasure, and pain, I cannot conclude without an earnest exhortation to all my country-folks, of whatsoever rank or sex, to take the utmost care of their ears. Guard your ears, O ye princes, for your power is lodged in your ears. Guard your ears, ye nobles, for your honor lies in your ears. Guard your ears, ye fair, if you would guard your virtue. And guard your ears, all my fellow-subjects, if you would guard your liberties and properties.

III.

FOG'S *JOURNAL.*

SATURDAY, April 10, 1736. N° 388.

HAVING in a former paper ſet forth the valuable privileges and prerogatives of the EAR, I ſhould be very much wanting to another material part of our compoſition, if I did not do juſtice to the EYES, and ſhew the influence they either have, or ought to have, in Great Britain.

While the eyes of my countrymen were in a great meaſure the part that directed, the whole people ſaw for themſelves; ſeeing was called believing, and was a ſenſe ſo much truſted to, that the eyes of the body and thoſe of the mind were, in ſpeaking, indifferently made uſe of for one another. But I am ſorry to ſay that the caſe is now greatly altered; and I obſerve with concern an epidemical blindneſs, or, at leaſt, a general weakneſs and diſtruſt of the eyes, ſcattered over this whole kingdom, from which we may juſtly apprehend the worſt conſequences.

This obſervation muſt have, no doubt, occurred to all who frequent public places, whom, inſtead of ſeeing ſo many eyes employed, as uſual, either in looking at one another, or in viewing attentively the object that brings them there, we find modeſtly delegating their faculty to glaſſes of all ſorts and ſizes, to ſee for them. I remarked this more particularly at an opera I was at, the beginning of this winter, where Polypheme was almoſt the only perſon in the houſe that

that had two eyes; the reſt had but one apiece, and that a glaſs one.

As I cannot account for this general decay of our optics from any natural cauſe, not having obſerved any alteration in our climate or manner of living, conſiderable enough to have brought ſo ſuddenly upon us this univerſal ſhort-ſightedneſs; I cannot but entertain ſome ſuſpicions, that their pretended helps to the ſight are rather deceptions of it, and the inventions of wicked and deſigning perſons, to repreſent objects in that light, ſhape, ſize, and number, in which it is their inclination or intereſt to have them beheld. I ſhall communicate to the public the grounds of my ſuſpicion.

The honeſt plain ſpectacles and reading-glaſſes were formerly the refuge only of aged and decayed eyes; they accompanied grey hairs, and in ſome meaſure ſhared their reſpect: they magnified the object a little, but ſtill they repreſented it in its true light and figure. Whereas now the variety of refinements upon this firſt uſeful invention have perſuaded the youngeſt, the ſtrongeſt, and the fineſt eyes in the world out of their faculty, and convinced them, that, for the true diſcerning of objects, they muſt have recourſe to ſome of theſe *media*; nay, into ſuch diſrepute is the natural ſight now fallen, that we may obſerve, while one eye is employed in the glaſs, the other is carefully covered with the hand, or painfully ſhut, not without ſhocking diſtortions of the countenance.

It is very well known, that there are not above three or four eminent operators for theſe portable or

pocket-eyes, and that they engroſs that whole buſineſs. Now, as theſe perſons are neither of them people of quality, *who are always above ſuch infamous and dirty motives*, it is not unreaſonable to ſuppoſe that they may be liable to a pecuniary influence; nor conſequently is it improbable that an adminiſtration ſhould think it worth its while, even at a large expence, to ſecure thoſe few that are to ſee for the bulk of the whole nation. This ſurely deſerves our attention.

It is moſt certain, that great numbers of people already ſee objects in a very different light from what they were ever ſeen in before by the naked and undeluded eye; which can only be aſcribed to the miſrepreſentations of ſome of theſe artificial *media*, of which I ſhall enumerate the different kinds that have come to my knowledge.

The looking-glaſs, which for many ages was the miniſter and counſellor of the fair ſex, has now greatly extended its juriſdiction; every body knows that that glaſs is backed with quickſilver, to hinder it from being diaphanous; ſo that it ſtops the beholder, and preſents him again to himſelf. Here his views center all in himſelf, and dear ſelf alone is the object of his contemplations. This kind of glaſs, I am aſſured, is now the moſt common of any, eſpecially among people of diſtinction, inſomuch that nine in ten of the glaſſes that we daily ſee levelled at the public are in reality not diaphanous, but agreeably return the looker to himſelf, while his attention ſeems to be employed upon others.

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The reflecting teleſcope has of late gained ground conſiderably, not only among the ladies, who chiefly view one another through that medium, but has even found it's way into the cabinets of princes; in both which caſes it ſuggeſts reflections to thoſe, who before were not apt to make many.

The microſcope, or magnifying glaſs, is an engine of dangerous conſequence, though much in vogue: it ſwells the minuteſt object to a moſt monſtrous ſize, heightens the deformity, and even deforms the beauties of nature. When the fineſt hair appears like a tree, and the fineſt pore like an abyſs, what diſagreeable repreſentations may it exhibit, and what fatal miſtakes may it mutually occaſion between the two ſexes! Nature has formed all objects for that point of view in which they appear to the naked eye; their perfection leſſens in proportion as they leave out that point, and many a Venus would ceaſe to appear one, even to her lover, were ſhe, by the help of a microſcope, to be viewed in the ambient cloud of her inſenſible perſpiration. I bar Mrs. Oſborne's returning my microſcope upon me, ſince I leave her in quiet poſſeſſion of the ſpectacles, and even of the reading-glaſſes, if ſhe can make uſe of them.

There is another kind of glaſs now in great uſe, which is the oblique glaſs, whoſe tube, leveled in a ſtrait line at one object, receives another in at the ſide, ſo that the beholder ſeems to be looking at one perſon, while another intirely engroſſes his attention. This is a notorious engine of treachery and deceit; and yet, they ſay, it is for the moſt part made uſe of

by miniſters to their friends, and ladies to their huſbands.

The ſmoked glaſs, that darkens even the luſtre of the ſun, muſt of courſe throw the blackeſt dye upon all other objects. This, though the moſt infernal invention of all, is far from being unpractiſed; and I knew a gentlewoman, who, in order to keep her huſband at home, and in her own power, had his whole houſe glazed with it, ſo that the poor gentleman ſhut up his door, and neither went abroad, nor let any body in, for fear of converſing, as he thought, with ſo many devils.

The dangers that may one day threaten our conſtitution in general, as well as particular perſons, from the variety of theſe miſchievous inventions, are ſo obvious, that they hardly need be pointed out: however, as my countrymen cannot be too much warned againſt it, I ſhall hint at thoſe that terrify me the moſt.

Suppoſe we ſhould ever have a ſhort-ſighted prince upon the throne, though otherwiſe juſt, brave, and wiſe; who can anſwer for his glaſs-grinder, and conſequently, who can tell through what medium, and in what light, he may view the moſt important objects? or who can anſwer for the perſons that are to take care of his glaſſes, and preſent them to him upon occaſion? may not they change them, and ſlip a wrong one upon him, as their intereſt may require, and thus magnify, leſſen, multiply, deform, or blacken, as they think proper; nay, and by means of the oblique glaſs abovementioned, ſhew him even one object for another? Where would the eye of

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the maſter be then? where would be that eye divinely deputed to watch over? but ſhrunk and contracted within the narrow circle of a deceitful tube.

On the other hand, ſhould future parliaments, by arts of a deſigning miniſter, with the help of a corrupted glaſs-grinder, have deluſive and perverſive glaſſes ſlipped upon them, what might they ſee? or what might they not ſee? nobody can tell. I am ſure every body ought to fear they might poſſibly behold a numerous ſtanding army in time of peace, as an inoffenſive and pleaſing object, nay, as a ſecurity to our liberties and properties. They might ſee our riches increaſe by new debts, and our trade by high duties; and they might look upon the corrupt ſurrender of their own power to the crown, as the beſt protection of the rights of the people. Should this ever happen to be the caſe, we may be ſure it muſt be by the interpoſition of ſome ſtrange medium, ſince theſe objects were never viewed in this light by the naked and unaſſiſted eyes of our anceſtors.

In this general conſideration, there is a particular one that affects me more than all the reſt, as the conſequence of it would be the worſt. There is a body of men, who, by the wiſdom and for the happineſs of our conſtitution, make a conſiderable part of our parliament; all, or, at leaſt, moſt of theſe venerable perſons, are, by great age, long ſtudy, or a low mortified way of living, reduced to have recourſe to glaſſes. Now ſhould their *media* be abuſed, and political tranſlative ones be ſlipped upon them, what ſcandal would their innocent, but miſguided conduct bring upon religion, and what joy would it give, at this

this time particularly, to the diſſenters? Such as, I am ſure, no true member of our church can think of without horror! I am the more apprehenſive of this, from the late revival of an act that flouriſhed with idolatry, and that had expired with it, I mean the ſtaining of glaſs. That medium, which throws ſtrange and various colours upon all objects, was formerly ſacred to our churches, and conſequently may, for aught I know, in the intended revival of our true church diſcipline, be thought a candidate worthy of our favour and reception, and ſo a ſtained medium be eſtabliſhed as the true, orthodox, and canonical one.

I have found it much eaſier to point out the miſchiefs I apprehend, than the means of obviating or remedying them, though I have turned it every way in my thoughts.

To have a certain number of perſons appointed to examine and licenſe all the glaſſes that ſhould be uſed in this kingdom, would be lodging ſo great a truſt in thoſe perſons, that the temptations to betray it would be exceedingly great too; and it is to be feared that people of quality would not take the trouble of it, ſo that, *Quis cuſtodiat ipſos cuſtodes?* (By whom will theſe keepers be kept?)

I once thought of propoſing, that a committee of both houſes of parliament ſhould be veſted with that power: but I immediately laid that aſide, for reaſons which I am not obliged to communicate to the public.

At laſt, deſpairing to find out any legal method that ſhould prove effectual, I reſolved to content myſelf

ſelf with an earneſt exhortation to all my country-folks, of whatſoever rank or ſex, to ſee with their own eyes, or not ſee at all, blindneſs being preferable to error.

See then with your own eyes, ye princes, though weak or dim: they will ſtill give you a fairer and truer repreſentation of objects, than you will ever have by the interpoſition of any medium whatſoever. Your ſubjects are placed in their proper point of view for your natural ſight; viewing them in that point, you will ſee that your happineſs conſiſts in theirs, your greatneſs in their riches, and your power in their affections.

See likewiſe with your own eyes, ye people, and reject all proffered *media:* view even your princes with your natural ſight; the true rays of majeſty are friendly to the weakeſt eye, or, if they dazzle and ſcorch, it is owing to the interpoſition of burning-glaſſes. Deſtroy thoſe pernicious *media*, and you will be pleaſed with the ſight of one another.

In ſhort, let the natural retrieve their credit, and reſume their power; we ſhall then ſee things as they really are, which muſt end in the confuſion of thoſe whoſe hopes and intereſts are founded upon miſrepreſentations and deceit.

IV.

IV.

COMMON SENSE*.

SATURDAY, February 5, 1737. N° 1.

Rarus enim ferme ſenſus communis—JUV.
Nothing ſo rare as common ſenſe.

A PREFACE is, by long cuſtom, become ſo neceſſary a part of a book, that, ſhould an author now omit that previous ceremony, he would be accuſed of preſumption, and be ſuppoſed to imagine that his performance was above wanting any recommendation. By a preface, an author preſents himſelf to the public, and begs their friendſhip and protection; if he does it gracefully and genteelly, he is well received, like many a fine gentleman upon the ſtrength of his firſt addreſs. Beſides, were it not for the modeſt encomiums, which authors generally beſtow upon themſelves in their prefaces, their works would often die unpraiſed, and ſometimes unread.

A weekly writer, I know, is not of a rank to pretend to a preface; but an humble introduction is ex-

* This paper, in which ſeveral perſons of eminence were concerned, was partly political, and on the ſide of oppoſition, but moſtly moral, and calculated for the improvement of manners and taſte. Lord Lyttelton was one of the writers; and the papers which fell from his pen have been inſerted in the collection of his works.

Thoſe which are here given ſufficiently ſhew, by the original turn and admirable management of irony diſcernible in them, the maſterly hand from which they came. Our authority, however, for producing them as lord Cheſterfield's, is that of one of his particular friends, to whom his lordſhip gave the liſt, which we have followed.

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pected from him. He must make his bow to the public at his first appearance, let them a little into his design, and give them a sample of what they are to expect from him afterwards.

In this case, it may be equally unhappy for him to give himself out, like Æsop's fellow-slaves, for one that can do every thing, or, like Æsop, for one that can do nothing; for, if he speaks too assumingly, the world will revolt against him, and, if too modestly, be apt to take him at his word.

These considerations determined me to make this first paper serve as an introduction to my future labours, though I am sensible that a weekly author is in a very different situation from an author in the lump.—If a wholesale dealer can, by an insinuating preface, prevail with people to buy the whole piece, his business is done, and it is too late for the deluded purchaser to repent, be the goods never so flimsy; but a weekly retailer is constantly bound to his good behaviour. He, like some others, holds both his honors and profits only *durante bene placito*; and whatever may be the success of his first endeavours, as soon as he flags in his painful hebdomadal course, he is rigorously struck off at once from his two-penny establishment.

Another difficulty, that occurred to me, was the present great number of my weekly brethren, with whom all people, except the stationers and the Stamp-office, think themselves already over-stocked; but this difficulty upon farther consideration lessened.

As for the London Journal, it cannot possibly interfere with me, as appears from the very title of my paper;

paper; moreover, I was informed, that paper of the ſame ſize and goodneſs as the London Journal, being to be had much cheaper unprinted and unſtamped, and yet as uſeful to all intents and purpoſes, was now univerſally preferred.

Fog's Journal, by a natural progreſſion from Miſt to Fog, is now condenſed into a cloud, and only uſed by way of wet brown paper, in caſe of falls and contuſions.

The Craftſman was the only rival that gave me any concern; that being the only one, I thought there was world enough for us both, and perſuaded myſelf that, wiſer than Cæſar and Pompey, we ſhould content ourſelves with dividing it between us; beſides that, I never obſerved Mr. D'Anvers to be an enemy to common ſenſe.

Being a man of great learning, I have, in chuſing the name of my paper, had before my eyes that excellent precept of Horace to authors, to begin modeſtly, and not to promiſe more than they are able to perform, and keep up to the laſt.—I have therefore only entitled it Common Senſe, which is all I pretend to myſelf, and no more than what, I dare ſay, the humbleſt of my readers pretends to likewiſe.

But, as a farther encouragement and invitation to the public to try me, I declare, that though I only promiſe them common ſenſe, yet if I have any wit they ſhall have it into the bargain. Wherefore I deſire my cuſtomers to look upon this weekly expence as a two-penny ticket in a lottery: it may poſſibly come up wit, and if a blank, at worſt, common ſenſe.

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But, as modesty is the best recommendation to great minds, on the other side it is apt to prejudice little ones, who mistake it for ignorance, or guilt; therefore, that I may not suffer by it with the latter, I must repeat a known observation, that common sense is no such common thing. I could give many instances of this truth, if I would, but decline it at present, and chuse to refer my readers to their several friends and acquaintance.

Should I here be asked then what I mean by common sense, if it is so uncommon a thing, I confess I should be at a loss to know how to define it. I take common sense, like common honesty, rather to be called common, because it should be so, than because it is so. It is rather that rule, by which men judge of other people's actions, than direct their own; the plain result of right reason admitted by all, and practised by few.

An ingenious dramatic author has considered common sense as so extraordinary a thing, that he has lately, with great wit and humor, not only personified it, but dignified it too with the title of a queen. Though I am not sure that had I been to personify common sense, I should have borrowed my figure from that sex, yet as he has added the regal dignity, which by the law of the land removes all defects, I wave any objection.—The fair sex in general, queens excepted, are infinitely above plain downright common sense; sprightly fancy and shining irregularities are their favourites, in which despairing to satisfy, though desirous to please them, I have, in order to be of some use to them, stipulated with my stationer,

that my paper shall be of the propereſt ſort for pinning up of their hair. As the new French faſhion is very favourable to me in this particular, I flatter myſelf, they will not diſdain to have ſome common ſenſe about their heads at ſo eaſy a rate.

Should I ever, as poſſibly I often may, be extremely dull, I will not, as ſome of my predeceſſors have done, pretend that it was by deſign, for I proteſt that I do not intend it; but in that caſe, I claim my ſhare in the preſent general indulgence to dulneſs, of being thought the wiſer for it, and hope to meet with ſympathetic nods of approbation from the moſt ſolid of my readers. Moreover, I ſhall go on the longer and the ſafer for it, dulneſs being the ballaſt of the mind, that fits it for a long voyage, keeps it ſteddy, and ſecures it from the guſts of fancy and imagination.

I cannot help thinking how very advantageous it may be to a great many people to purchaſe my paper, were it only for the ſake of the title.—Have you read common ſenſe? Have you got common ſenſe? are queſtions which one ſhould be very ſorry not to be able to anſwer in the affirmative; and yet, in order to be able to do it with truth, a precaution of this kind may poſſibly not be unneceſſary, at leaſt it can do no hurt.

As to the deſign of my paper, it is to take in all ſubjects whatſoever, and try them by the ſtandard of common ſenſe. I ſhall erect a kind of tribunal, for the *crimina læſi ſenſûs communis*, or the pleas of common ſenſe. But the method of proceeding muſt be different from that of other courts, or it would be

contrary to the meaning and inſtitution of this. The cauſe of common ſenſe ſhall be pleaded in common ſenſe. Let not the guilty hope to eſcape, or the innocent fear being puzzled, delayed, ruined, or condemned.

It would be endleſs for me to enumerate the various branches of the juriſdiction of this court, ſince every thing, more or leſs, falls under its cognizance. The poſſeſſion or the want of common ſenſe appears proportionably in the loweſt, as well as in the higheſt, tranſactions; and a king, and a cobler, without it, will equally bungle in their reſpective callings. The *quicquid agunt homines* (actions of men) is my province; and *homines* comprehends, not only all men, but all women too, that is, as far as they are to be comprehended. The conduct of the fair ſex will therefore come under my conſideration; but with this indulgence, which is due to them, that, in trying their actions by the ſtraight rule of common ſenſe, I ſhall make proper allowances for thoſe pretty obliquities and deviations from it, which great vivacity, lively paſſions, and conſcious beauty, frequently occaſion, and in ſome meaſure juſtify.

The fine gentlemen cannot hope to eſcape trial, were it only as acceſſaries to their fair principals. I am aware, that they will cavil at the juriſdiction of the court, and will alledge, if they know how, that they are brought *coram non judice* (before an incompetent judge). I acknowledge too, that they have a preſumptive kind of exemption from inquiries and proſecutions of this nature; but as this connivance, if too long indulged, might grow into a right, I muſt

inſiſt upon their appearing ſometimes in court, where they ſhall meet with all the lenity that is due to their birth and education.

But let all authors, from right honorable, or right reverend, down to the humbleſt inhabitant in Grub-ſtreet, reſpect and tremble at the juriſdiction of the court. With them I diſclaim all lenity, as they are generally the moſt daring and boldeſt offenders. I ſhall try them by my rule, as the tyrant Procruſtes tried his ſubjects by his bed, and will, without mercy, ſtretch out thoſe that fall ſhort of it, and cut off from thoſe who go beyond it.

I am ſenſible that common ſenſe has lately met with very great diſcouragement in the noble ſcience of politics; our chief profeſſors having thought themſelves much above thoſe obvious rules that had been followed by our anceſtors, and that lay open to vulgar underſtandings; they have weighed the intereſts of Europe in nicer ſcales, and ſettled them in ſo delicate a balance, that the leaſt blaſt affects it. For my part, I ſhall endeavour to bring them back to the old ſolid Engliſh ſtandard of common ſenſe; but if by that means any gentlemen, who diſtinguiſh themſelves in that ſublime ſphere, ſhould be at a loſs for buſineſs, and appear totally unqualified for it, I hope they will not lay their misfortunes to my charge, ſince it is none of my fault, if their intereſts and thoſe of common ſenſe happen to be incompatible.

If, in domeſtic affairs too, I ſhould find that common ſenſe has been neglected, I ſhall take the liberty to aſſert its rights, and repreſent the juſtice, as well

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as the expediency, of reſtoring it to its former credit and dignity. Our conſtitution is founded upon common ſenſe itſelf, and every deviation from one is a violation of the other. The ſeveral degrees and kinds of power, wiſely allotted to the ſeveral conſtituent parts of our legiſlature, can only be altered by thoſe who have no more common ſenſe than common honeſty. Such offenders ſhall be proceeded againſt as guilty of high-treaſon, and ſuffer the ſevereſt puniſhment.

I foreſee all the difficulties I am to ſtruggle with in the courſe of this undertaking; and ſee the improbability, if not the impoſſibility, that common ſenſe ſhould ſingly, by its own weight and merit, make its way into the world, and retrieve its loſt empire. But as many valuable things in themſelves have owed their reception and eſtabliſhment, not to their own intrinſic worth, but to ſome lucky hit, or favourable concurrence of circumſtances; ſo ſome ſuch accident in my favour is what I more rely upon than the merit of my paper, ſhould it have any. Faſhion, which prevails nobody knows how, can introduce what reaſon would in vain recommend; and as, by the circulation of faſhions, the old ones revive after a certain interval, the faſhion of common ſenſe ſeems to have been laid aſide long enough to have a fair chance now for revival.

If therefore any fine woman, in good humour on a Saturday morning, would be pleaſed to drop a word in my favour, and ſay, "It is a good comical paper;" or any man of quality, at the head of taſte, be ſo kind as to ſay, "It is not a bad thing;" I

ſhould become the faſhion, and be univerſally bought up at leaſt: and as for being read or not, it is other people's buſineſs, not mine.

As I am ſcrupulous even to delicacy in all my engagements, I muſt premiſe that, in intitling my paper Common Senſe, I only mean the firſt half-ſheet, or it may be a column of the next; the reſt of the paper, which will contain the events foreign and domeſtic, I am very far from promiſing ſhall have any relation at all to common ſenſe. But, as the chief profits of a weekly writer ariſe from thence, the world, which at leaſt reaſons very juſtly upon that ſubject, would, I am ſure, think that I wanted common ſenſe myſelf, if I neglected them.

Upon the whole, my intention is to rebuke vice, correct errors, reform abuſes, and ſhame folly and prejudice, without regard to any thing but common ſenſe; which, as it implies common decency too, I ſhall confine myſelf to things, and not attack perſons; it being my deſire to improve or amuſe every body, without ſhocking any body.

I do not think it neceſſary, at leaſt yet, to give the public any information as to my perſon; let my paper ſtand upon its own legs. My preſent reſolution is to keep my name concealed, unleſs my ſucceſs ſhould ſome day or other tempt my vanity to diſcover it. All I will ſay at preſent is, that I never appeared in print before; and if I ſhould not meet with ſome encouragement now, I ſhall withdraw myſelf to my former retirements, and there indulge thoſe oddneſſes that compoſe my character; the deſcription

ſcription of which, if I go on, may ſome time or other entertain my readers.

V.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, February 19, 1737. N° 3.

BERNIER informs us of a very extraordinary cuſtom, which prevails to this day in the empire of the Mogol. His imperial majeſty is annually weighed upon his birth-day; and if it appears that, ſince his former weighing, he has made any conſiderable acquiſition of fleſh, it is matter of public rejoicings throughout his whole dominions. Upon that great day too, his ſubjects are obliged to make him preſents, which ſeldom amount to leſs than thirty millions.

This ſeems to be a cuſtom which, like many cuſtoms in other countries, is merely obſerved for antiquity or form-ſake; but the original purpoſe, for which it was at firſt wiſely eſtabliſhed, is either neglected or quite forgotten: or it is impoſſible to imagine, that his Mogol majeſty's good and loyal ſubjects ſhould find ſuch matter of joy in the literal increaſe of their ſovereign's materiality, which muſt of courſe render him leſs qualified for the functions and duties of his government; ſo that it is more reaſonably to be preſumed, that, as all the oriental nations chuſe to convey their precepts of religion, morality, and government, through hieroglyphics, types, and

emblems, this cuſtom was originally allegorical, and ſignified the political increaſe of his majeſty's weight as to credit, power, and dominion; which might juſtly adminiſter great joy to his faithful ſubjects.

Or, to carry my conjecture a little farther, is it impoſſible that his now abſolute empire might formerly have been a limited one; the equal balance of which it might be neceſſary often to examine, in order to preſerve it in its juſt equilibrium? In which caſe, it is highly probable, that his majeſty was weighed againſt ſome counterpoiſe; or, to ſpeak plainer, the prerogative of the prince might be examined with relation to the rights and privileges of the ſubject. What confirms me the more in this opinion, is the choice of the day for the operation. It was his ſacred majeſty's birth-day, a day in which he was ſuppoſed to be in good humour; and the preſents were of a nature to put him in good humour, in caſe they had not found him ſo: which circumſtances ſeem to be meant as preparatory ſweeteners to a ceremony, that would not otherwiſe have been very agreeable to him.

It will be no objection to my conjecture to alledge the preſent abſolute form of that government; ſince a very little knowledge of hiſtory will ſhew us, that the moſt abſolute governments now in the world have been originally free ones, and only bought, bullied, or beaten, out of their liberties.

This may very probably have been the caſe in Indoſtan, where the nobles and repreſentatives of the people might think it both civil and prudent not to weigh quite fair againſt his majeſty; but to lighten their own ſcale, that he might preponderate a little.

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This little by degrees increaſed the bulk of their ſucceſſors, by continually adding more and more to it.

The ſuperiority of weight probably pleaſed his majeſty, and gave him a reliſh for more; which theſe great annual preſents, ſwelling up his civil liſt, enabled him the better to gratify, by having wherewithal to corrupt the weighers on the part of the nobles and the people, till by degrees the whole weight was thrown into the royal ſcale, without any counterpoiſe. By ſuch gradations this cuſtom, originally eſtabliſhed for the ſecurity of the conſtitution, may have dwindled into a mere pompous ceremony, and an expenſive rareeſhow annually exhibited to a cozened people, in exchange for their liberties.

Would I follow the example of the moſt eminent critics, I could ſupport theſe my criticiſms and conjectures by innumerable authorities both antient and modern; and prove, beyond contradiction, from the natural hiſtory of fat, that it is impoſſible a ſovereign can deſire that great increaſe of his corporal bulk, or a good ſubject rejoice in it. But I ſhall content myſelf with a few.

Fat and ſtupidity are looked upon as ſuch inſeparable companions, that they are uſed as ſynonymous terms; and all the properties of corporal materiality, when applied to the mind, intimate ſlowneſs, heavineſs, dulneſs, and ſuch like qualities.

The *pinguis Minerva* of the antients ſhews us their opinion, that, if even the goddeſs of arts and wiſdom herſelf were to grow fat, ſhe would grow ſtupid too; which, if ſauce for a god or goddeſs, may ſurely, with all due regard, be ſauce for a king or queen.

Horace's *pingue ingenium*, or fat head, means by the ſame figure a puzzled, dull, impenetrable one.

The very air the Bœotians breathed was, from their ſtupidity, called a fat one; and at this day, a neighbouring nation, not leſs eminent than the Bœotians for the ſedateneſs and tranquillity of their genius, are likewiſe diſtinguiſhed by the weight and circumference of their bodies.

After theſe inſtances, it would not only be uncandid, but indecent, to ſuppoſe that any ſovereign would deſire to clog and encumber, by a load of fleſh, thoſe faculties upon whoſe clearneſs and quickneſs the welfare of his ſubjects, and his own glory, ſo much depend; beſides that even bodily agility is highly neceſſary for a prince. A light, clever, active monarch can with more frequency and celerity viſit his remoteſt dominions, where his preſence may often be required. His military operations too may receive great luſtre and advantage from the agility of his perſon; not to mention what a fatal hindrance a prominent abdomen would prove to his royal exercitations in the ſeraglio.

Having thus proved that this cuſtom muſt originally have been only emblematical, and never meant literally as an annual regiſter, or rather bill of fare, of the real pounds of fleſh his Indian majeſty may get or loſe in the courſe of a year, let us examine a little whether this cuſtom may not deſerve, in future times, adoption here, and be advantageouſly introduced into our conſtitution.

Methinks even our conſtitution itſelf points out to us this very method of preſerving it; the three

conſtituent parts of the ſupreme legiſlative power form a kind of a political *trilanx*, to each ſcale of which a due ſort and proportion of weight is wiſely allotted, that they may all hang even, and yet, with all ſubmiſſion to a right reverend prelate, independent of each other. What then more natural than an annual examination and inſpection of this *trilanx?*

That this method of weighing ſtates and empires is very antient, appears from Homer, who tells us, that Jupiter himſelf weighed the fates of Greece and Troy: by what kind of ſcale he weighed them, I do not find, either in Euſtathius, or any other commentator; but it is only evident by the ſide that prevailed, that it could not be Troy weight.

Such, I acknowledge, is the happineſs of our preſent times, ſuch the wiſdom and integrity of all thoſe who now compoſe the legiſlative power, and ſuch the nice equality of the ſcales, that any caution of this nature would be altogether unneceſſary; but common ſenſe looks farther, and wiſely provides againſt future, remote, and poſſible dangers.

As therefore I apprehend no danger this century, I only propoſe this meaſure to commence in the year of our Lord 1800, when, as it is naturally to be preſumed that all the perſons, of which the legiſlative power ſhall be compoſed, will be ſuch as are now unborn, nobody can tell what may happen, nor how neceſſary it may be to weigh them frequently, and with the greateſt exactneſs. This too is the more practicable here, becauſe we have the balance of Europe now ready in our hands for the purpoſe: we have held it with vaſt credit and ſucceſs, and infinite

advantage

advantage of late, and no doubt ſhall continue long in poſſeſſion of it; ſo that the legiſlature may certainly borrow it of the miniſtry a couple of days in the year for this domeſtic purpoſe.

In the performing of this operation, it ſeems abſolutely neceſſary that all interchangeable preſents, betwixt the parties to be weighed, be ſtrictly prohibited, as they might give an undue ſhare of weight to the ſcale in which they may be thrown, and have the ſame fatal conſequences here, that, in my opinion, they have already had in Indoſtan; and ſhould it ever happen that, through politeneſs, or any other motive, grains and drachms ſhould be annually thrown into the regal ſcale, it muſt in the end ſo far preponderate, that it will be difficult, if not impoſſible, to retrieve it: nay, another caſe might happen, that would be very ridiculous, which is, if the regal ſcale and the popular ſcale, at the two extremities of the beam, ſhould both be loaded with the ſpoils of the middle one, that middle one would ſtill keep dangling, though quite empty.

What has been ſaid hitherto relates only to metaphorical weight, and is meant to recommend to the ſerious care and attention of poſterity the preſervation of our happy conſtitution, and to adviſe them to be watchful of any the leaſt innovation in any part of it. But I am not ſure, whether the real literal weighing of many individuals may not greatly contribute to this good end; and I am the more confirmed in this opinion by an experiment of that kind, which, I am informed, has been for ſome years laſt paſt tried with great ſucceſs. I am aſſured that in a great hall, at the

the country ſeat of a very conſiderable perſon in Chriſtendom, there is a very magnificent pair of man ſcales, where the maſter of the houſe and his numerous gueſts are annually weighed, and are as annually found to increaſe immenſely. This hint, I think, may admit of great improvements; ſomething of this kind, whether ſcales or ſteel-yards, can be moſt advantageouſly made uſe of the firſt and laſt day of every ſeſſion of parliament; though, in my humble opinion, the ſcale muſt be found the more decent of the two, becauſe it muſt appear ludicrous, and conſequently turn the whole ceremony into a kind of farce, to ſee the people of the firſt rank, both in church and ſtate, dangling and ſprawling at the end of a ſteel-yard.

But it is certain, that to come ſome way or other at the intrinſic weight of the individuals who compoſe our legiſlature, and to diſtinguiſh exactly betwixt that intrinſic weight and the extraneous weight they may be apt to acquire, would greatly tend to preſerve a due equilibrium between the collective bodies that form our conſtitution.

I muſt own, many difficulties occur to me in this undertaking; but, as I am unwearied in my endeavours for the good of my country, I will turn this matter in my thought, till I have reduced it to ſome method that may appear to me to be practicable, when I ſhall not fail communicating it to the world for the good of poſterity. In the mean time, I ſhall think myſelf obliged to any ingenious perſon who ſhall ſend me his thoughts upon this ſubject, and help me to

aſcertain the due weight of every individual, as well as a true method of coming at it.

VI.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, February 26, 1737. N° 4.

THE Romans uſed to ſay, *ex pede Herculem*, or, you may know Hercules by his foot, intimating, that one may commonly judge of the whole by a part. I confeſs, I am myſelf very apt to judge in this manner, and may, without pretending to an uncommon ſhare of ſagacity, ſay, that I have very ſeldom found myſelf miſtaken in it. It is impoſſible not to form to one's ſelf ſome opinion of people the firſt time one ſees them, from their air and dreſs; and a ſuit of cloaths has often informed me, with the utmoſt certainty, that the wearer had not common ſenſe. The Greeks (to diſplay my learning) ſaid ἱματιον ανηρ, or, the dreſs ſhews the man; and it is certain, that of all trifling things, there is none by which people ſo much diſcover their natural turn of mind, as by their dreſs. In greater matters they proceed more cautiouſly, nature is diſguiſed, and weakneſſes are concealed by art or imitation; but in dreſs they give a looſe to their fancy, and, by declaring it an immaterial thing, though at the ſame time they do not think it ſo, promiſe themſelves at leaſt impunity in their greateſt oddneſſes and wildeſt exceſſes. I ſhall therefore, in this paper, conſider the

the ſubject of dreſs by certain plain rules of common ſenſe, which I ſhall ſtrictly charge and require all perſons to obſerve.

As dreſs is more immediately the province, not to ſay the pleaſure, not to ſay the care, not to ſay the whole ſtudy, of the fair ſex, I make my firſt application to them; and I humbly beg their indulgence, if the rules I ſhall lay down ſhould prove a little contrary to thoſe they have hitherto practiſed. There is a proper dreſs for every rank, age, and figure, which thoſe who deviate from are guilty of petty-treaſon againſt common ſenſe; to prevent which crime for the future, I have ſome thoughts of diſpoſing, in proper parts of the town, a certain number of babies in the ſtatutable dreſs for each rank, age, and figure, which, like the 25th of Edward III, ſhall reduce that matter to a preciſion.

Dreſs, to be ſenſible, muſt be properly adapted to the perſon; as, in writing, the ſtyle muſt be ſuited to the ſubject, which image may not unaptly be carried on through the ſeveral branches of it. I am far from objecting to the magnificence of apparel, in thoſe whoſe rank and fortune juſtify and allow it; on the contrary, it is a uſeful piece of luxury, by which the poor and the induſtrious are enabled to live, at the expence of the rich and the idle. I would no more have a woman of quality dreſſed in doggrel, than a farmer's wife in heroics. But I hereby notify to the profuſe wives of induſtrious tradeſmen and honeſt yeomen, that all they get by dreſſing above themſelves is the envy and hatred of their inferiors and

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their equals, with the contempt and ridicule of their ſuperiors.

To thoſe of the firſt rank in birth and beauty, I recommend a noble ſimplicity of dreſs; the ſubject ſupports itſelf, and wants none of the borrowed helps of external ornaments. Beautiful nature may be disfigured, but cannot be improved, by art; and as I look upon a very handſome woman to be the fineſt ſubject in nature, her dreſs ought to be epic, modeſt, noble, and entirely free from the modern tinſel. I therefore prohibit all *concetti*, and luxuriancies of fancy, which only depreciate ſo noble a ſubject; and I muſt do the handſomeſt women I know the juſtice to ſay, that they keep the cleareſt from theſe extravagances. Delia's good ſenſe appears even in her dreſs, which ſhe neither ſtudies nor neglects; but, by a decent and modeſt conformity to the faſhion, equally ſhuns the triumphant pageantry of an overbearing beauty, or the inſolent negligence of a conſcious one.

As for thoſe of an inferior rank of beauty, ſuch as are only pretty women, and whoſe charms reſult rather from a certain air and *je ne ſais quoi* in their whole compoſition, than from any dignity of figure, or ſymmetry of features, I allow them greater licences in their own ornaments, becauſe their ſubject, not being of the ſublimeſt kind, may receive ſome advantages from the elegancy of ſtyle, and the variety of images. I, therefore, permit them to dreſs up to all the flights and fancies of the ſonnet, the madrigal, and ſuch-like minor compoſitions. Flavia may ſerve for a model of this kind; her ornaments are her amuſement,

amuſement, not her care; though ſhe ſhines in all the gay and glittering images of dreſs, the prettineſs of the ſubject warrants all the wantonneſs of the fancy. And if ſhe owes them a luſtre, which, it may be, ſhe would not have without them, ſhe returns them graces they could find no where elſe.

There is a third ſort, who, with a perfect neutrality of face, are neither handſome nor ugly, and who have nothing to recommend them, but a certain ſmart and genteel turn of little figure, quick and lively. Theſe I cannot indulge in a higher ſtyle than the epigram, which ſhould be neat, clever, and unadorned, the whole to lie in the ſting; and where that lies, is unneceſſary to mention.

Having thus gone through the important article of dreſs, with relation to the three claſſes of my country-women, who alone can be permitted to dreſs at all, *viz.* the handſome, the pretty, and the genteel, I muſt add, that this privilege is limited by common ſenſe to a certain number of years, beyond which no woman can be any one of the three. I therefore require, that, when turned of thirty, they abate of the vigor of their dreſs; and that, when turned of forty, they utterly lay aſide all thoughts of it. And, as an inducement to them ſo to do, I do moſt ſolemnly aſſure them, that they may make themſelves ridiculous, but never deſirable by it. When they are once arrived at the latitude of forty, the propitious gales are over; let them gain the firſt port, and lay aſide their rigging.

I come now to a melancholy ſubject, and upon which the freedom of my advice, I fear, will not be kindly

kindly taken; but, as the cauſe of common ſenſe is moſt highly concerned in it, I ſhall proceed without regard to the conſequences: I mean the ugly, and, I am ſorry to ſay it, ſo numerous a part of my country-women. I muſt, for their own ſakes, treat them with ſome rigor, to ſave them not only from the public ridicule, but indignation. Their dreſs muſt not riſe above plain humble proſe; and any attempts beyond it amount at beſt to the mock-heroic, and excite laughter. An ugly woman ſhould by all means avoid any ornament that may draw eyes upon her which ſhe will entertain ſo ill. But if ſhe endeavours, by dint of dreſs, to cram her deformity down mankind, the inſolence of the undertaking is reſented; and when a Gorgon curls her ſnakes to charm the town, ſhe would have no reaſon to complain if ſhe loſt head and all by the hand of ſome avenging Perſeus. Ugly women, who may more properly be called a third ſex, than a part of the fair one, ſhould publickly renounce all thoughts of their perſons, and turn their minds another way; they ſhould endeavour to be honeſt good-humoured gentlemen; they may amuſe themſelves with field ſports, and a chearful glaſs, and, if they could get into parliament, I ſhould, for my own part, have no objection to it. Should I be aſked how a woman ſhall know ſhe is ugly, and take her meaſures accordingly; I anſwer, that, in order to judge right, ſhe muſt not believe her eyes, but her ears, and, if they have not heard very warm addreſſes and applications, ſhe may depend upon it, it was the deformity, and not

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the ſeverity, of her countenance, that prevented them.

There is another ſort of ladies, whoſe daily inſults upon common ſenſe call for the ſtrongeſt correction, and who may moſt properly be ſtyled old offenders. Theſe are the ſexagenary fair-ones, and upwards, who, whether they were handſome or not in the laſt century, ought at leaſt in this to reduce themſelves to a decency and gravity of dreſs ſuited to their years. Theſe offenders are exceedingly numerous: witneſs all the public places, where they exhibit whatever art and dreſs can do, to make them compleatly ridiculous. I have often obſerved ſeptuagenary great-grandmothers adorned, as they thought, with all the colours of the rainbow, while in reality they looked more like the decayed worms in the midſt of their own ſilks. Nay, I have ſeen them proudly diſplay withered necks, ſhriveled and decayed like their marriage-ſettlements, and which no hand, but the cold hand of time, had viſited theſe forty years. The utmoſt indulgence I can allow here, is extreme cleanlineſs, that they may not offend more ſenſes than the ſight; but for the dreſs, it muſt be confined to the elegy and the *triſtibus*.

What has been ſaid with relation to the fair ſex, holds true with relation to the other, only with ſtill greater reſtrictions, as ſuch irregularities are leſs pardonable in men than in ladies. A reaſonable compliance with the faſhion is no diſparagement to the beſt underſtanding, and an affected ſingularity would; but an exceſs, beyond what age, rank, and character will juſtify, is one of the worſt ſigns the body can

hang out, and will never tempt people to call in. I see with indulgence the youth of our nation finely bound, and gilt on the back, and wish they were lettered into the bargain. I forgive them the unnatural scantiness of their wigs, and the immoderate dimensions of their bags, in consideration that the fashion has prevailed, and that the opposition of a few to it would be the greater affectation of the two. Though, by the way, I very much doubt whether they are all of them gainers by shewing their ears; for it is said that Midas, after a certain accident, was the judicious inventer of long wigs. But then these luxuriancies of fancy must subside, when age and rank call upon judgement to check its excrescencies and irregularities.

I cannot conclude this paper without an animadversion upon one prevailing folly, of which both sexes are equally guilty, and which is attended with real ill consequences to the nation; I mean that rage of foreign fopperies, by which so considerable a sum of ready money is annually exported out of the kingdom, for things which ought not to be suffered to be imported even *gratis*. In order therefore to prevent, as far as I am able, this absurd and mischievous practice, I hereby signify, that I will shew a greater indulgence than ordinary to those who only expose themselves in the manufactures of their own country; and that they shall enjoy a connivance, in the nature of a drawback, to those excesses, which otherwise I shall not tolerate.

I must add, that if it be so genteel to copy the French, even in their weaknesses, I should humbly

hope it might be thought ſtill more ſo, to imitate them where they really deſerve imitation, which is, in preferring every thing of their own to every thing of other people's. A Frenchman, who happened to be in England at the time of the laſt total eclipſe of the ſun, aſſured the people, whom he ſaw looking at it with attention, that it was not to be compared to a French eclipſe: would ſome of our fine women emulate that ſpirit, and aſſert, as they might do with much more truth, that the foreign manufactures are not to be compared to the Engliſh; ſuch a declaration would be worth two or three hundred thouſand pounds a year to the kingdom, and operate more effectually than all the laws made for that purpoſe. The Roman ladies got the Oppian law, which reſtrained their dreſs, repealed, in ſpite of the unwearied oppoſition of the elder Cato. I exhort the Britiſh ladies to exert their power to better purpoſes, and to revive, by their credit, the trade and manufactures of their own country, in ſpite of the ſupine negligence of thoſe whoſe more immediate care it ought to be to cultivate and promote them.

VII.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, April 30, 1737. N° 14.

THOSE who attack the fundamental laws of virtue and morality, urge the uncertainty of them, and alledge their variations in different coun-

tries, and even in different ages in the ſame countries. Morality, ſay they, is local, and conſequently an imaginary thing, ſince what is rejected in one climate as a vice, is practiſed in another as a virtue; and, according to them, the voice of nature ſpeaks as many different languages as there are nations in the world.

The dangers and ill conſequences of this doctrine are obvious, but ſurely the falſity of it is not leſs ſo; and the moſt charitable opinion one can entertain of thoſe who propagate it, is, that they miſtake faſhion and cuſtom for nature and reaſon. The invariable laws of juſtice and morality are the firſt and univerſal emanations of human reaſon, while unprejudiced and uncorrupted; and we may as well ſay, that ſickneſs is the natural ſtate of the body, as that injuſtice and immorality are the natural ſituation of the mind. We contract moſt of the diſtempers of the one, by the irregularity of our appetites, and of the other, by yielding to the impetuoſity of our paſſions; but, in both caſes, reaſon, when conſulted, ſpeaks a different language.

I admit, that the prevailing cuſtoms and faſhions of moſt countries are not founded upon reaſon, and, on the contrary, are too frequently repugnant to it: but then the reaſonable people of thoſe countries condemn and abhor, though, it may be, they too wittingly comply with, or, at leaſt, have not courage enough openly to oppoſe, them.

The people of rank and diſtinction, in every country, are properly called the people of faſhion; becauſe, in truth, they ſettle the faſhion. Inſtead of ſubjecting themſelves to the laws, they take meaſure

of

of their own appetites and paſſions, and then make laws to fit them; which laws, though neither founded in juſtice, nor enacted by a legal authority, too often prevail over, and inſult, both juſtice and authority. This is faſhion.

In this light, I have often conſidered the word *honor* in its faſhionable acceptation in this country, and muſt confeſs, that, were that the univerſal meaning of it throughout this kingdom, it would very much confirm the doctrine I endeavour to confute; and would be ſo contrary to that honor which reaſon, juſtice, and common ſenſe, point out, that I ſhould not wonder, if it inclined people to call in queſtion the very exiſtence of honor itſelf.

The character of a man of honor, as received in the *beau monde*, is ſomething ſo very ſingular, that it deſerves a particular examination; and, though eaſier obſerved than deſcribed, I ſhall endeavour to give my readers a deſcription of it, illuſtrated with ſome original pieces, which have luckily fallen into my hands.

A man of honor is one, who peremptorily affirms himſelf to be ſo, and who will cut any body's throat that queſtions it, though upon the beſt grounds. He is infinitely above the reſtraints which the laws of God or man lay upon vulgar minds, and knows no other tyes but thoſe of honor; of which word he is to be the ſole expounder. He muſt ſtrictly adhere to a party denomination, though he may be utterly regardleſs of its principles. His expence ſhould exceed his income conſiderably, not for the neceſſaries, but for the ſuperfluities of life, that the debts he con-

tracts may do him honor. There ſhould be a haughtineſs and inſolence in his deportment, which is ſuppoſed to reſult from conſcious honor. If he be choleric, and wrong-headed into the bargain, with a good deal of animal courage, he acquires the glorious character of a man of nice and jealous honor: and, if all theſe qualifications are duly ſeaſoned with the genteeleſt vices, the man of honor is compleat; any thing his wife, children, ſervants, or tradeſmen, may think to the contrary, notwithſtanding.

Belville is allowed to be a man of the moſt conſummate honor, that this or any age ever produced. The men are proud of his acquaintance, and the women of his protection; his party glories in being countenanced by him, and his honor is frequently quoted as a ſanction for their conduct. But ſome original letters, which I ſhall give my readers, will let them more intimately into the particulars of ſo ſhining a character, than mere deſcription would do.

He had run out a conſiderable fortune by a life of pleaſure, particularly by gaming, and, being delicately ſcrupulous in points of honor, he wrote the following letter to his attorney after an ill run at play:

"SIR,

"I HAD a damned tumble laſt night at hazard, "and muſt raiſe a thouſand within a week; get "it me upon any terms, for I would rather ſuffer the "greateſt incumbrance upon my fortune, than the leaſt "blemiſh upon my honor. As for thoſe clamorous "raſcals the tradeſmen, inſiſt upon my privilege, and

"keep

" keep them off as long as poſſible; we may chance " to ruin ſome of them, before they can bring us " to trial.

" Yours, &c.

" BELVILLE.

" To Mr. Tho. Gooſetree, attorney,
" in Furnival's Inn."

But, leſt the endeavours of Mr. Gooſetree ſhould prove ineffectual, Belville, from the ſame principle of honor, reſolved, at all events, to ſecure that ſum collaterally, and therefore wrote the following letter to the firſt miniſter:

" SIR,

" I WAS applied to yeſterday in your name by " * * * to vote for the point which is to come " into our houſe to-morrow; but, as it was extremely " contrary to my opinion and principles, I gave him " no explicit anſwer, but took ſome time to con- " ſider of it. I have therefore the honor now to " acquaint you, that I am determined to give my " concurrence to this affair; but muſt deſire, at the " ſame time, that you will immediately ſend * * * " to me, with the fifteen hundred pounds he offered " me yeſterday, and for which I have a preſſing oc- " caſion this morning. I am perſuaded you know " me too well to ſcruple this payment beforehand, and " that you will not be the firſt perſon that ever " queſtioned the honor of,

" SIR,

" Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

" BELVILLE."

I find another letter, of the same date, to a lady, who appears to be the wife of his most intimate friend;

"MY DEAR,

"I HAVE just now received yours, and am very "sorry for the uneasiness your husband's beha- "viour has given you of late; though I cannot be "of your opinion, that he suspects our connection. "We have been bred up together from children, and "have lived in the strictest friendship ever since; so "that I dare say he would as soon suspect me of a de- "sign to murder, as wrong him this way. And you "know it is to that confidence and security of his, "that I owe the happiness that I enjoy. However, "in all events, be convinced that you are in the "hands of a man of honor, who will not suffer you "to be ill-used; and, should my friend proceed to "any disagreeable extremities with you, depend upon "it, I will cut the cuckold's throat for him.

"Yours most tenderly."

The fourth and last letter is to a friend, who had, probably, as high notions of honor as himself, by the nature of the affair in which he requires his assistance;

"DEAR CHARLES,

"PRYTHEE come to me immediately, to serve "me in an affair of honor. You must know, I "told a damned lye last night in a mixed company; "and a formal odd dog, in a manner, insinuated that "I did so: upon which, I whispered him to be in "Hyde-Park this morning, and to bring a friend "with

" with him, if he had ſuch a thing in the world.
" The booby was hardly worth my reſentment; but
" you know my delicacy, where honor is concerned.

" Yours,

" BELVILLE."

It appears, from theſe authentic pieces, that Mr. Belville, filled with the nobleſt ſentiments of honor, paid all debts but his juſt ones; kept his word ſcrupulouſly in the flagitious ſale of his conſcience to a miniſter; was ready to protect, at the expence of his friend's life, his friend's wife, whom, by the opportunities that friendſhip had given him, he had corrupted; and puniſhed truth with death, when it intimated, however juſtly, the want of it in himſelf.

This perſon of refined honor, conſcious of his own merit and virtue, is a moſt unmerciful cenſor of the leſſer vices and failings of others; and laviſhly beſtows the epithets of ſcoundrel and raſcal upon all thoſe who, in a ſubordinate rank of life, ſeem to aſpire to any genteel degree of immorality. An awkward country gentleman, who ſells his ſilent vote cheap, is with him a ſad dog. The induſtrious tradeſmen are a pack of cheating raſcals, who ſhould be better regulated, and not ſuffered to impoſe upon people of condition; and ſervants are a parcel of idle ſcoundrels, that ought to be uſed ill, and not paid their wages, in order to check their inſolence.

It is not to be imagined how pernicious the example of ſuch a creature is to ſociety; he is admired, and conſequently imitated: he not only immediately corrupts his own circle of acquaintance, but the contagion

tagion ſpreads itſelf to infinity, as circles in water produce one another, though gradually leſs marked out, in proportion as they are remoter from the cauſe of the firſt.

To ſuch practice and ſuch examples in higher life, may juſtly be imputed the general corruption and immorality which prevail through this kingdom. But, when ſuch is the force of faſhion, and when the examples of people of the firſt rank in a country are ſo prevalent as to dignify vice and immorality, in ſpite of all laws divine and human, how popular might they make virtue, if they would exert their power in its cauſe! and how muſt they, in their cooler moments, reproach themſelves, when they come to reflect, that, by their fatal examples, they have beggared, corrupted, and it may be, enſlaved, a whole nation!

VIII.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, May 14, 1737. N° 16.

I HAVE lately read with great pleaſure father Du Halde's account of China, where I have found ſeveral rules of morality and good government, which the politeſt nations in Europe might adopt with honor, and practiſe with advantage. Many of them are conveyed, according to the oriental cuſtom, in allegories and fables, ſo that they ſtrike one more ſenſibly, and imprint themſelves deeper in the memory,

mory, by their connexion with ſome familiar image. Among others, I obſerved this remarkable one, which I ſhall now give my readers.

Hoen Kong aſked his miniſter Koan Tchong, "What was the moſt to be feared in a government?" Koan Tchong anſwered, "In my mind, ſir, nothing "is more to be dreaded than what they call *the rat* "*in the ſtatue.*" Hoen Kong not underſtanding the allegory, Koan Tchong explained it to him. "You "know, ſir, ſaid he, that it is a common practice to "erect ſtatues to the genius of the place: theſe "ſtatues are of wood, hollow within, and painted "without. If a rat gets into one of them, one does "not know how to get him out: one does not care "to make uſe of fire, for fear of burning the wood; "one cannot dip it in water, for fear of waſhing off "the colours; ſo that the regard one has for the "ſtatue ſaves the rat that is got into it. Such, ſir, "are in every government thoſe, *who, without virtue* "*or merit, have gained the favour of their prince:* "*they ruin every thing; one ſees it, one laments it, but* "*does not know how to remedy it.*"

I approve of the moral of the ſtory, and am very much of Koan Tchong's mind, that nothing is to be dreaded more in a government than this rat in the ſtatue; but how he came to be of that mind himſelf, I cannot eaſily comprehend, for our author ſays he was a miniſter, and conſequently of the rat kind. But as he does not indeed ſay, that he was the firſt, or ſole miniſter, I am inclined to think that he was only one of thoſe who have the name and ſalary of miniſters, without any of the power, and who are often glad to

give

give a ſlap by the bye to the firſt miniſter, though they have not courage enough openly to attack him.

After this ſhort remark, I return to the allegory itſelf, which I cannot ſay is ſo apt as I expected, from a people ſo much verſed in that manner of inſtruction. The parallel drawn between the emperor and a wooden ſtatue is ſo diſreſpectful and uncourtly, that I could have wiſhed our author had informed us, how his Chineſe majeſty had reliſhed the ſimilitude, that is, in caſe he took all the force of it; for, in reality, it was making no difference between an anointed head and a wooden one. A rat may very well eat his way into a ſtatue unſeen, unfelt, and unſmelt: but can a miniſter, eſpecially ſuch a one as is here deſcribed, without virtue or merit, nibble himſelf into a prince's favour, and the prince not ſmell a rat? It is impoſſible; and the bare ſuppoſition of it was highly injurious to his royal wiſdom and penetration. I will admit, in favour of Koan Tchong, that the eaſtern monarchs have not that degree of ſagacity, which ſo eminently diſtinguiſhes and adorns the European ones; and I will allow, that they are more likely to be ſurprized and impoſed upon by the artifices of a deſigning miniſter; their indolent and retired way of life, ſoaking in the arms of their imperial conſorts, or wantoning in the embraces of their concubines, not giving them the ſame opportunity of ſeeing, or being informed. But ſtill, when this general rule is univerſally ſeen and lamented, as Koan Tchong expreſſes it, the unanimous voice, the juſt complaints, the groans, and the deſolation, of a ruined and oppreſſed people, muſt reach, muſt affect, and

muſt

muſt rouze his majeſty, if he be but ever ſo little above a ſtatue. If not, if ſuch an impoſſibility could be ſuppoſed, I muſt then confeſs, that the allegory of the painted wood is ſo far juſt, as that the king's head would properly be *but the ſign of the government*.

The concluſion Koan Tchong draws from this allegory is no leſs falſe and abſurd; for, ſays he, when the rat is got into the ſtatue, one does not know how to get him out. One does not dare to make uſe of fire, for fear of burning the wood; one cannot dip it in water, for fear of waſhing off the colours: ſo that the regard one has for the ſtatue ſaves the rat that is got into it. This tender regard for the ſtatue would, with all ſubmiſſion to Koan Tchong, in my opinion, much better have become an Hibernian courtier, than a Chineſe one; for it is ſaying, in very good Iriſh, that the ſtatue, from regard one has for it, ſhall be entirely devoured, for fear of being a little damaged or defaced. Whereas I ſhould rather think, that the beſt way of ſhewing that regard for the ſtatue would be, by ſaving as much as ever one could of it from the further depredations of the rat; even though it were to coſt a limb or two, as is frequently practiſed upon human bodies. But, to do Koan Tchong juſtice, I do not impute his reaſoning to want of parts; I rather think it was a piece of miniſterial logic, which has been uſed in other countries beſides China. Here the miniſter breaks out, and the miniſter too, who ſeems to have no opinion of the diſtinguiſhing faculty of his prince, when he tries ſuch a piece of ſophiſtry upon him, which,

I dare say, he would not have ventured in any other company. For he so closely connects the rat and the statue, and consequently the king and the minister, that, in effect, he makes them but one flesh, and one would think they grew together like the two Hungarian girls*; by this way of reasoning, whoever attacked this all-devouring rat, *alias* minister, was an enemy to the statue, *alias* king; and, *vice versa*, those that were friends to rat and minister were friends to statue and king.

This indissoluble union would, I own, be most excellent doctrine for a minister to inculcate, could he find either king or nation weak enough to believe it; but I can never imagine that any thing so absurd could be received by the Chinese, who are a wise and sensible people: at least, it could not extend itself beyond the walls of the palace.

Let us now consider the allegory literally. These sacred, painted, tawdry images, are erected to the genii of the place: they are the productions of superstition, and, probably, the creatures of the bonzes, who dub them sacred, and exhibit them as representations, wooden ones, alas! of the divinity. Sacrilegious rats eat their way into them, and endanger their wooden existence. What is to be done? Why truly they are to devour with impunity, for fear the statue should receive some small damage in the rescue; as if there were not a thousand ways of coming at the rat, with little or no danger to the statue. For instance, shaking it soundly might probably make the dwelling of

* Two Hungarian girls, that were shewn some years ago as a fine sight, and were fastened together by the rump.

the

the rat so uneasy, that he might be willing to quit it, for fear of something worse afterwards.

There is another obvious expedient that occurs, which is that of sending a cat up after him: but to this, I own, I have some objection myself, because, though the cat would kill the rat, he would possibly remain in his place, and be as unwilling to quit it. But is it possible that the useful art of rat-catching should be unknown to so ingenious a people as the Chinese? If it is, I would advise our East-India company to send them a rat-catcher or two next voyage, for whom they might expect as considerable returns, and advantages, as Whittington is reported to have made by his cat. Though, I am very sorry to say it, the noble art and mystery of rat-catching has greatly declined even here of late; and I should be at a loss to find an honest and skilful artist to recommend to them.

But can one suppose, that the religion and piety of the bonzes would suffer them to remain indifferent spectators of such sacrilegious outrages; and that they, who can dislodge a devil, cannot get out a rat; unless one has little charity enough to believe, that the bonzes, by a sort of commutation, are not unwilling to let the rats take sanctuary in their statues, to be rid of them themselves, and so, by an interested and impious connivance, give up their gods to save their bacon?

To come now to the allegorical sense, which Koan Tchong had such a mind to establish. A minister without virtue or merit gains the favour of his prince: he ruins every thing; one sees it, one laments it, but

one

one does not know how to remedy it. To me the remedy ſeems very eaſy and obvious; take the miniſter away from him, and prevent the ruin, that threatened both him and his country. I do not doubt, indeed, but the miniſter would, during the operation, cry out, like Koan Tchong; you attack the king, you deface the king, you wound the king through my ſides, and would plead the king, as women do their bellies, to reſpite execution: but, ſurely, upon examination, a degree of ſagacity, much inferior to that of matrons, would be ſufficient to bring him in not quick with king, but a diſtinct and ſeparate body, eaſily removed, without the leaſt danger to the ſovereign.

Having fully diſcuſſed this allegory, I ſhall conclude with adopting one part of it, which is, that nothing is ſo much to be dreaded in a government, as a miniſter without virtue or merit, who gains the favour of his prince; but with entirely rejecting the latter part, that one ſees and laments it, but, out of regard to the prince, one does not know how to remedy it; ſince that very regard for the prince ſhould excite one to endeavour it, and common ſenſe points out the means of doing it, if there be bur common honeſty enough to put them in practice.

IX*.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, June 4, 1737. Nº 19.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

— Vocem Comœdia tollit. HOR.
Comedy lifts her voice.

SIR,

AS the cauſe of common ſenſe and the ſtage are jointly concerned, ſome obſervations on the bill depending at preſent for the regulation of the latter cannot be thought improper for your paper; eſpecially ſince I believe it will appear by them to be ineffectual to the end propoſed, and injurious to the poet, the player, and the public.

The end, propoſed by this bill, is the regulation of theatrical entertainments, which, from their exceſs, fill both town and country with idleneſs and debauchery; and, from being under no reſtraint, exhibit to the public encomiums on vice, and laugh away the ſober principles of modeſty and virtue.

A deſign of this kind is certainly worthy the care of the legiſlature; ſince every one, who thinks in the juſt mean between libertiniſm and ſeverity, muſt be con-

* The act for licenſing the theatres was attacked with great ſtrength of reaſoning by our nobleman in his famous ſpeech on that ſubject, and with great humour and delicacy in this eſſay. But, notwithſtanding his efforts, the bill was carried through both houſes with an amazing rapidity, and received the royal aſſent the 21ſt of June, 1737.

vinced that a well-governed ſtage is an ornament to the ſociety, an encouragement to wit and learning, and a ſchool of virtue and good manners; while a licentious one is the parent of looſe deſires, a nurſery of vice, effeminacy, and irreligion.

But let us examine the preſent bill by the end propoſed—

Will it tend to a regulation by decreaſing the number?

I think it is plain, that it will have the contrary effect; ſince, while a diſcretionary power of licenſing them remains in any one perſon whatſoever, a way is left open for APPLICATION, which, it cannot be thought, will be always unſucceſsful. And I ſee no reaſon why it is not as well worth the charge of a miniſtry to ſend companies of ſtrollers round to the corporations, to entertain them *gratis* with political plays before an election, as it has been to circulate political news-papers upon the like occaſion. For it may very well be preſumed, that Caleb * hanged in effigy, and dropping limb from limb like Harlequin, will conduce as much to render him unpopular in a country audience, as the wit and ſatire of a Gazetteer †. And no one can doubt, but that com-

*: The Craftſman.

† The Daily Gazetteer was a title given very properly to certain papers, each of which laſted but a day. Into this, as a common ſink, was received all the traſh which had been before diſperſed in ſeveral journals, and circulated at the public expence of the nation. The authors were the ſame obſcure men: though ſometimes relieved by occaſional eſſays from ſtateſmen, courtiers, biſhops, deans, and doctors. The meaner ſort were rewarded with money; others with places or benefices, from an hundred to a thouſand pounds a year. See the Dunciad, Book II.

mon

mon ſenſe will be expoſed upon ſuch ſtages, and ridiculed, for the diverſion of a mayor and aldermen, with great ſucceſs. Nor can this conjecture of mine be thought improbable, from any difficulty to ſupply ſuch a number of inferior play-houſes with actors and poetry; ſince, in the preſent ſtate of trade, the exciſe officers may, at their leiſure hours, ſupply the firſt, and the ſeveral ingenious authors of the Gazetteer * club for the other. The miraculous ſir A. B. muſt have an excellent head for a political pantomime; and Mrs. Oſborne herſelf can condeſcend to be waggiſh for the ſervice of the government.

This ſcheme, in time, muſt affect the freedom of election, ſince a purſe-proud court-candidate might eaſily draw into his intereſt the governing part of moſt corporations, I mean the women, by this terrible menace, "D—mn me, madam, if you do not "make Mr. mayor return me, you ſhall have no "more plays, by G—d."

As it is plain therefore that this ſcheme muſt increaſe the number, will it produce any good effect by any reſtraint that will probably be laid on the pieces performed?

The anſwer that will be given to this queſtion is, that they muſt all undergo my lord chamberlain's inſpection. Is then every lord chamberlain a wit and a critic, juſt as every Merry Andrew is a phyſician, by his office? or is it reaſonable to ſuppoſe that one man can peruſe all the dramatic poetry that is produced in this ſcribbling kingdom of Great Britain;

* Of theſe, Oſborne and Arnall, mentioned above, p. 2, and p. 7, appear to have been the moſt reſpectable perſonages.

or even in that ſmall retreat of the Muſes, where moſt of theſe pieces are generated, and from whence, for the future, we muſt expect a ſupply? As this is in its nature impoſſible, my lord will probably delegate this authority to ſome of his domeſtics; the chaplain, for tragedy; the cook, or the porter, may execute the office of comedy-inſpector. And when that is the caſe, beſides the abuſe of juſtice, which is always ſeen in inferior jurisdictions, nobody can ſuppoſe theſe delegates can have equal taſte in the politer ſtudies, or be as good judges of wit and morality, as my lord himſelf: nor will they be inclined to men of merit in the profeſſion of poetry, who are ſo little verſed in the proper methods of making court to their ſuperiors.

Beſides, if the ſcheme above-mentioned is put into execution, wit and ſatire will be poſtponed for party reflection and abuſe. The comic glaſs, inſtead of expoſing vice and folly, will be made a corrupt uſe of, to magnify the features of ſome honeſt country ſquire in the oppoſition into a papiſt or a ſaracen, to the affright of himſelf and his neighbours; while the curioſity of the vulgar, and the opportunities of indulging it at theſe entertainments, will ſtill continue, and have the ſame tendency to produce idleneſs and luxury as they have at preſent; though it may be preſumed that the taſte for theſe entertainments will, by this method, gradually decay.

I think I have, by theſe few obſervations above, demonſtrated that this bill cannot have its deſired effect. I ſhall now endeavour to prove that it will be

be injurious to the poet, the player, and the public in general.

It is very well known how difficult it is at preſent for merit, without intereſt, to bring any play upon the ſtage: and will the pride and ſelf-conceit of the manager be abated by this regulation? or, can a poet's temper be brought to ſubmit to ſtrike out whatever offends ſo many critics, as will have a judicial authority to blot by virtue of this act? The neceſſitous indeed will, perhaps with reluctance, comply: but what can be expected from that band, who prefer ſolid pudding to empty praiſe? Can it be thought that a man, who has ſenſe and learning enough to write a play fit for the ſtage, and who has ſtood the judgment of a play-houſe monarch and his privy-council of critics, will be induced to cringe to a chaplain, a porter, a cook, or a ſecretary?

If I might preſume to ſpeak my judgment, formed on experience, I ſcarce believe he would ſubmit to my lord himſelf.

Here then is a manifeſt diſcouragement to that ſpecies of learning, which inſtructs youth, and delights in age; which is an ornament to the man of fortune, a comfort and ſupport of neceſſity; which entertains in the cloſet, and diverts abroad; ſhortens the journey of the traveller, and is a chearful companion in ſolitude and exile *.

As this is a diſcouragement to poetry, ſo it lays ſuch a reſtraint on the actor, and ſo ſubjects him to the arbitrary will of an inſolent patentee, that [illegible] I believe, will think it worth their while to leave th[illegible]

* Cicero, Orat. pro Archia Poëta.

law, the counter, or Ireland itſelf, to get a poor tawdry ſubſiſtence on the ſtage.

If dramatic poeſy is, under proper regulations, a benefit, the diſcouragement of it in general, which, from what has been obſerved above, will be effected by this act, muſt be injurious to the public; and if this bill ſhould paſs into a law, a Wycherley or Congreve will never riſe again on the Engliſh ſtage: for there will be always fools enough to fill the licenſed play-houſes, that delight in farce, noiſe, and ſhow; and, while that is the caſe, no manager will run the hazard of endeavouring to refine the taſte of the vulgar, by complying with that of the learned.

Beſides the loſs of the little wit ſtill remaining among us, I am afraid that the ſwarm of inſignificant mortals, who are now employed in the ſtudy of this kind of poetry, will, upon the diſadvantage this bill will lay them under, deſert this only fertile ſpot of Parnaſſus, and join in an inſurrection with the diſtillers *, or turn from robbing the dead to the plunder of the living.

I need not here mention the infringement attempted by this act on the liberty of the preſs.

* The act, for reſtraining the ſale of ſpirituous liquors in ſmall quantities, had failed of its effect. The informers, who dared to give intelligence againſt offenders, were ſo roughly treated by the populace, and ſo ill protected by the miniſtry, that the abuſe became intolerable. It was ſo manifeſtly the intereſt of the diſtillers to defeat the bill, that they were ſuppoſed to have had a hand in theſe inſurrections; and the noble author of this eſſay humorouſly hints, that writers of plays, being now diſappointed, for want of proper licences, in their retail of wit, would ſuffer themſelves to be employed by the compoſers, retailers, or conſumers, of liquors, to join in theſe riots, and perhaps take to the road.

But

But if, notwithſtanding theſe few haſty objections, the wiſdom of the legiſlature ſhould think proper to paſs this bill, I would beg leave to ſubmit the two following amendments to their conſideration.

Firſt, that the ſtrolling companies, licenſed, be reſtrained to ſome particular number, and not be permitted to act in any borough or corporation.

Secondly, ſince wit and modeſty, morality and religion, ought chiefly to be regarded in theſe entertainments, that every thing deſtructive of either may be ſure to be expunged: and ſince the fair ſex have lately ſhewn ſo laudable a zeal for wit, that they may have a ſhare in the adminiſtration of it.

I propoſe that the lord chamberlain's power, given by this act, be transferred to a committee of the maids of honor and biſhops, who ſhall act in joint commiſſion in this important affair; ſince the firſt are the beſt judges of wit and modeſty, the latter of morality and religion, in this kingdom.

Yours,

A. Z.

X.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, July 16, 1737. N° 25.

IT is the complaint of moſt men, who have lived any time in the world, that the preſent age is much degenerated in its morals within the memory of man. I am afraid this complaint is not altoge-

ther without foundation. That there has been a gradual decay of public ſpirit for ſome years, cannot be denied; and which owes its original, if I am not very much miſtaken, to our party diviſions.

There is a particular maxim among parties, which alone is ſufficient to corrupt a whole nation; which is, to countenance and protect the moſt infamous fellows who happen to herd amongſt them. There is no man, let his private character be ever ſo ſcandalous, that can be of ſome uſe to ſerve a turn, but immediately grows to be a man of conſequence with his party.

It is ſomething ſhocking to common ſenſe, to ſee the man of honor and the knave, the man of parts and the blockhead, put upon an equal foot; which is often the caſe amongſt parties. In the ſtruggles that happen about elections, when ſome candidate of a fair character has been ſet up on one ſide, how often have you ſeen the moſt abandoned knave of the other party put up to oppoſe him, and both ſupported with equal zeal! Parties will always find ſomething or other, in the worſt of men, to reconcile them to the obnoxious parts of their characters. He, that has ſenſe enough to diſtinguiſh right from wrong, can make a noiſe; nay, the leſs ſenſe, the more obſtinacy, eſpecially in a bad cauſe; and the greater knave, the more obedient to his leaders, eſpecially when they are playing the rogue. Theſe are the beſt tools; and ſuch are the qualities neceſſary for putting in execution the bad meaſures which the corrupt leaders of parties intend to carry on, if they are uppermoſt.

Party

Party zeal changes the name of things; black is white, vice is virtue, a bribe in an office is called a perquiſite, and the moſt ſtudied and concerted fraud, that can enter into the head of the moſt thorough-paced knave, ſhall be voted a little negligence. In fine, party merit takes away all blots and ſtains out of the blackeſt characters; and he that deſerves to be hanged, by all laws human and divine, for his conduct in private life, may, at the ſame time, be an angel with his party.

Mendax, while he held an office in the ſtate, is detected in a little mean fraud; for Mendax was of a complection ſo delicate, and had ſomething in his conſcience ſo ſcrupulouſly nice, that he fancied he wronged his family, if he did not play the rogue whenever any thing was to be got by it; but, however, Mendax, in a public capacity, has been always true to the troop. The chiefs of the party having met, to conſider how to behave with reſpect to Mendax in this critical juncture, all the men of honor amongſt them were for giving him up, and even joining in any puniſhment that might be laid upon him, in order to convince the world, that they would not protect the man that had wronged his country; but a veteran, who was grown old in all the iniquitous practices of party, and who had acquired authority by his experience, was quite of another opinion. "Mendax," ſays he, "has always been an active "member of the cauſe:" and what have we to do with his morals, or his honor? adding, "The man that "is true to the troop muſt always be ſkreened, let "him be guilty of what he will."

Thus,

Thus, by the deteſtable politics of party, Mendax was countenanced and careſſed under the infamy of a moſt ſcandalous fraud; and lived to do his country more miſchief, by the corruption which he afterwards ſpread through it, than a famine, a plague, or a war, could have done.

If we look back into the hiſtory of a few years paſt, we ſhall find that the immenſe eſtates that have been made, by the numerous fraudulent projects with which this virtuous age has abounded, have been by perſons who pretended to be zealous party men, and have gone great lengths in party: nay, ſome have been ſo cunning as to ſhift ſides, and go over to the ſtrongeſt, juſt before they have reſolved to ſtrike ſome bold ſtroke, wiſely ſecuring a good retreat before they enter upon action; ſo that I have often thought, that a ſtrong party is the ſame thing to a cheat, that a ſtrong iſland in the Weſt-Indies is to a pirate, a place of ſafety to lay up all he has ſtolen.

As I have intitled my paper, Common Senſe; the public may depend upon it, that I ſhall not write the ſenſe of a party, becauſe common ſenſe muſt be free from all prejudice, and party ſenſe is obſerved to be rarely ſo. I will farther add, that I take common ſenſe and common honeſty to be ſo near akin, that, whenever I ſee a man turn knave, I ſhall not ſtick to pronounce him a fool. I have the experience of the times in which I have lived, to juſtify me in this opinion. I never knew a man, that ſet out with good principles, and afterwards became a proſtitute to men in power, but ſome creature of a little, narrow, mean underſtanding. A piece of ribbon, or a word

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added to a name, ſhall reconcile a fool to the moſt deſtructive meaſures that the moſt corrupt miniſter or miniſters can enter upon: but common ſenſe has ſome modeſty; it has a ſenſe of ſhame, and cannot act in direct oppoſition to truth and honor.

But I am farther of opinion, that, if a writer ſhould at this time expect to make his way in the world, and to become popular, by running violently into all the prejudices of a party, he would meet with a reception from the public very different from what he expected. Party prejudice is not the ſame thing it was. The malignity of the diſtemper is worn out; and it muſt be a ſingular pleaſure to a man who loves his country, to find that thoſe two odious diſtinctions of Whig and Tory, with which we formerly reproached one another, are uſed no more. All men unplaced, and unpenſioned, talk and think alike; and we ſee gentlemen, who were bred up in oppoſite principles, and, though in other reſpects men of honor, had imbibed all the prejudices of their reſpective parties, now meet and ſhake hands, and, upon comparing notes, wonder that they had ever differed: and what makes it more extraordinary is, that all this ſhould happen without their being reproached, either by their country, or their particular friends, of changing their principles; which ſhews there is ſomething in an honeſt and an upright conduct, that will carry it through the world, and ſupport it againſt all the ſuggeſtions that calumny can invent.

I will not ſay, that it is proſperity that has wrought this great change. I am afraid this union of minds is not owing to a univerſal content of the nation: the

cauſes

cauſes of it are too well known to need any explanation; but, be it as it will, it is certain that the cure of any grievances that may fall upon us can come from nothing elſe but this union. This is not only my opinion; it is certainly the opinion of thoſe whoſe ſafety, next to the corruption of the times, depends upon our diviſions.

When a nation is divided againſt itſelf, how great muſt be the providence that muſt ſave it from ſinking! When the people are broken into parties and factions, worrying and reviling one another, what a fine harveſt it yields to the common enemy! If I ſhould be aſked, who is that common enemy? I ſhall only anſwer, that there are banditti in time of peace as well as in time of war; there are free-booters, who are not regularly liſted on either ſide, and who, while both ſides are engaged againſt each other, will certainly plunder the nation.

I will only ſay, beware of thoſe who are labouring to keep alive the animoſities of party: it is true, they have laboured in vain; and Providence has ſo confounded their devices, that they have united us by the very methods they took to keep us aſunder; but they have not yet given up the game for loſt. They are continually throwing out bones of contention; they are raking up the dying embers of party, in hopes of kindling a new flame.

There is a ſet of men, who are governed by no principles, and have no friends or followers but ſuch as are attached to them for mercenary ends. Theſe aſſume to themſelves the name of a party, though they do not carry ſo much as the appearance of it: it is they

who

who are for fomenting diviſions, in hopes that, when the madneſs of party ſhall again ſeize the people, both ſides will by turns fall in with them, in order to be revenged and undo each other, which will ſave a great deal in bribes; a method of doing buſineſs, which muſt have an end, when there is no money left in the nation. But it happens, that they have been ſo awkward in concealing their foul play, that all the world has ſeen through it; and it looks as if Providence had infatuated their cunning, with a kind intention of putting us upon our guard, and of rouzing that antient ſpirit of our people which has preſerved this nation when any incroachments have been made upon its liberties.

But though there may be no dangerous deſigns at preſent, and the whole body of the people may entertain the ſame opinion of the good intentions and of the great abilities of our preſent ſet of miniſters as they really merit, yet it is not amiſs to have our eyes about us. Political jealouſy is inſeparable from the minds of good patriots; it is their duty to be watchful for the public, and ſuſpicious of the deſigns of men in power. A certain degree of this jealouſy is abſolutely neceſſary to be kept up at all times, for the preſervation of liberty. This jealouſy, I ſay, is our great ſecurity; and it cannot decay till public ſpirit decays.

The individuals of that great body called *the people*, are ſo taken up with their ſeveral avocations, that they are not always at leiſure to examine well the deſigns of men in power, and to ſee through thoſe diſguiſes which they endeavour to throw over bad meaſures;

therefore it is the duty of every private man to give the alarm whenever he perceives any thing doing which muſt have a tendency to alter and impair that plan of government under which we and our anceſtors have lived free.—And this we propoſe ſhall be partly the buſineſs of this paper.

The adverſaries, that in all probability will oppoſe us in this deſign, are not much to be feared. That paper, which is looked upon as the work of the greateſt wits, and moſt profound politicians of the faction, for they are not to be called a party, might be excelled by the loweſt productions in Grub-ſtreet; yet here you ſee all the good ſenſe that is amongſt them, and it would be reaſon enough for making the people uneaſy, if they ſhould have a notion that the public affairs were to be managed by ſuch hands as publiſh the moſt idle, the moſt inconſiſtent, and moſt ſlaviſh ſchemes of politics, that the world ever ſaw.

I cannot help thinking, that they have taken up a notion, that the only qualification of a political writer is a hardy and intrepid manner of aſſerting what is not, and of denying what is. As to their profligate manner of endeavouring to turn public ſpirit into ridicule, they have done it with ſo little wit, that they have not been able to gain the very laughers on their ſide. Thanks be to their dullneſs, it riſes againſt their oppoſition: he that laughs with them, muſt laugh without a jeſt; and therefore, as often as I ſaw my predeceſſors employ their wit againſt thoſe who never uſed that weapon againſt them, I own I did not look upon it as very generous in them; methinks, if I were maſter of that weapon called wit, I ſhould be as much

much ashamed of drawing it against an Osborne, or a Walsingham, as I should of drawing a sword against a naked man.

Upon the whole, though I have promised never to be dull with design, yet I would not have the public expect much from me at such times as I shall be drawn into a dispute with that paper, which has a mob of Swiss writers to support it; it is a Briareus with an hundred hands, but not one head: and as there is neither conduct, nor order, nor discipline, nor honor, amongst them, they will be as easily defeated as any other rabble.

XI.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, August 20, 1737. N° 30.

THOUGH the separation of the parliament generally suspends the vigor of political altercations, I doubt it creates domestic ones, not less sharp and acrimonious; and, possibly, the individuals of both houses may find as warm debates at home, as any they have met with during the course of the session.

Their motion for adjourning into the country is, I believe, seldom seconded by their wives and daughters; and, if at last they carry it, it is more by the exertion of their authority, than by the cogency of their reasoning.

This

This act of power so strenuously withstood at first, and so unwillingly submitted to at last, lays but an indifferent foundation of domestic harmony during their retirement; and I am surprized that the throne, which never fails, at the end of the session, to recommend to both houses certain wholesome and general rules for their behaviour and conduct, when scattered in their respective counties, should hitherto have taken no notice of their ladies, nor have made them the least excuse for the disagreeable consequences which result to them from the recess. Nay, even in the female reigns of queen Elizabeth and queen Anne, I cannot discover that any advice, or application of this nature, has ever been directed to the fair sex; as if their uneasiness and dissatisfaction were matters of no concern to the peace and good order of the kingdom in general.

For my own part, I see this affair in a very different light; and I think I shall do both my country and the ministry good service, if, by any advice and consolation I can offer to my fair countrywomen, in this their dreadful time of trouble and trial, I can alleviate their misfortunes, and mitigate the horrors of their retirement; since it is obvious, that the people in the country, who see things but at a distance, will never believe that matters go right, when they observe a general discontent in every one but the master of the family, whose particular tranquillity they may, possibly, ascribe to particular reasons, and not to the happy state of the public. Besides that, my real concern and regard for the fair sex excites my compassion for them; and I sympathize with them

them in that scene of grief and despair which the prospect of their six months exile presents to them.

I own I have been so sensibly touched, as I have gone along the streets, to see, at the one pair of stairs windows, so many fine eyes bathed in tears, and dismally fixed upon the fatal waggons loading at their doors, that I resolved, my endeavours should not be wanting to administer to them whatever amusement or comfort I could think of, under their present calamity.

The antient philosophers have left us most excellent rules for our conduct, under the various afflictions to which we are liable. They bid us not be grieved at misfortunes, nor pleased with prosperity; and undeniably prove, that those imaginary ills of old age, sickness, the loss of friends, fortune, &c. would really not be ills, if we were but wise enough not to be affected by them. But I have no where found, in their writings, any consolation offered to the fair sex, to support and strengthen them under the rigors of a country life. Whether this barbarous custom of confining the ladies half the year in the country was not practised among the antients, whether the case was not looked upon as above comfort or below attention, or whether the Goths and Vandals may not have deprived the learned world of those valuable treatises, I cannot tell: but this is certain, that I know no case of greater compassion, and few of greater consequence, than that of a fine woman, hurried, not only by her husband, but *with* her husband, from all the joys of London, to all the horrors of the mansion-seat in the country; where, not to mention many

other circumſtances of this tyranny, in one particular, I fear it too often reſembles the Mezentian cruelty of tying a living body to a dead one.

I firſt addreſs myſelf to thoſe ladies, whoſe diſtinguiſhed beauty, delicacy, and accompliſhments, juſtly place them at the head of the pleaſures and faſhion of the town. Their will is the law, and their example the model, of the polite world: poſſeſſed, one half of the year, of more than imperial ſway; the other half, they groan under the uſurped power of their huſbands. Nay, even the ſuperior beauty of many ladies, like the ſuperior merit of many illuſtrious Athenians, has often both cauſed and prolonged their exile. Can kings depoſed and impriſoned experience a more cruel reverſe of fortune than this? Their caſe is certainly above comfort; and I own I am at a loſs what to recommend to them. *Succedanea* there are none; I ſhall only endeavour to ſuggeſt lenitives.

I am not abſurd enough, even to hint the uſual rural recreations, of fetching a walk, a horſe-race, an aſſize-ball, or a ſillabub under the red cow; which muſt all of them be exceedingly ſhocking to their delicacy. Beſides, I know, that, at their firſt arrival in the country, they entirely give up all hopes, not only of pleaſure, but of comfort, and, from a juſt contempt of whatever they are to ſee or hear, plunge themſelves at once into an auguſt melancholy, and a ſullen deſpair, like captive princeſſes in a tragedy.

I wiſh I could procure them a ſix-months ſleep or annihilation; but, as that is not in my power, the beſt advice I can give them, is to carry down a proviſion of the tendereſt books, which will at once improve

their

their ſtyle, nouriſh all the delicacy of their ſentiments, and keep imagination awake.

The moſt voluminous romances are the moſt ſerviceable, and wear the beſt in the country, ſince four or five of them will very near hold out the ſeaſon. Beſides that, the pleaſing deſcriptions of the flowery vales, where the tender heroines ſo often bewailed the abſence of their much-loved heroes, may, by the help of a little imagination and an elegant ſympathy, render the ſolitary proſpect of the neighbouring fields a little more ſupportable.

This ſerious ſtudy may ſometimes be diverſified by ſhort and practical novels, of which the French language furniſhes great abundance. Here the cataſtrophe comes ſooner, and nature has its ſhare, as well as ſentiments; ſo that a lady may exactly fit the humour ſhe happens to be in.

If a gentle languor only inſpires tender ſentiments, ſhe may find, in the cleareſt light, whatever can be ſaid upon *le cœur & l'eſprit* (the heart and the mind), to indulge thoſe thoughts; or, if intruding nature breaks-in with warmer images, ſhe will likewiſe find in thoſe excellent manuals ſuitable and correſponding paſſages. The pleaſing tumult of the ſenſes, the ſoft annihilation, and the expiring ſighs of the diſſolving happy pair, may agreeably recall the memory of certain tranſactions in the foregoing winter, or anticipate the expected joys of the enſuing one.

Some time too may be employed in epiſtolatory correſpondence with diſtreſſed, ſympathizing, friends in the ſame ſituation, pathetically deſcribing all the diſagreeable circumſtances of the country: with this

juſt exception only, "that one could bear with it "well enough for two or three months in the ſum-"mer, with the company one liked, and without "the company one diſliked."

As for the more ſecret and tender letters, which are to go under two or three directions, and as many covers, the uppermoſt to be directed by truſty Betty, and by her given into the poſtman's own hand, they of courſe furniſh out the moſt pleaſing moments of the confinement; and I dare ſay, I need neither recommend them, nor the attentive and frequent peruſal of the anſwers returned to them.

But, as theſe occupations will neceſſarily meet with ſome interruption, and as there will be intervals in the day, when thoughts will claim their ſhare, as at dinner with my lord or his neighbours, or on Sundays at church; I adviſe that they ſhould be turned as much as poſſible from the many diſagreeable, to the few agreeable proſpects, which the country affords.

Let them reflect, that theſe abſences, however painful for the time, revive and animate paſſions, which, without ſome little ceſſation, might decay and grow languid. Let them conſider, how propitious the chapter of accidents is to them in the country, and what charming events they may reaſonably flatter themſelves with, from the effuſion of ſtrong beer and port, and the friendly interpoſition of hedges, ditches, and five-barred gates: not to mention another poſſible contingency, of their huſbands meeting with Actæon's fate from their own hounds, which, whether probable or not, they know beſt.

With

With these prospects, and these dissipations, I should hope they may pass, or rather kill, the tedious time of their banishment, without very great anxiety; but, if that cannot be, there is but one expedient more which occurs to me, and which I have often known practised with success; that is, the colic, and pains of the stomach, to such a degree, as absolutely to require the assistance of the Bath. The colic, in the stomach I mean, is a clean genteel distemper, and by no means below women of the first condition, and they should always keep it by them, to be used as occasion requires; for as its diagnostics are neither visible nor certain, it is pleadable against husband, neighbours, and relations, without any possibility of being traversed.

As for those ladies who move but in a second sphere in town, their case is far from being so compassionate, their fall from London to the country being by no means so considerable; nay, in some particulars, I am not sure if they are not gainers by it. For they are indisputably in the country; what they never are in town, the first. They give currency to fashions and expressions; they are stared at, admired, and consulted; and the female district forms itself upon their model. They are likewise of a more accommodating temper, and can let themselves down to country recreations; they do not disdain the neighbouring assembly, nor the captain of dragoons who commands at it. They can swallow a glass of red wine and a macaroon in the evening, when hospitably tendered them by the squire's lady, or the parson's wife; and, upon a pinch, can make up a country

dance at night, with the help of the butler, the houſe-keeper, and a couple of chairs.

It is true, theſe are but condeſcenſions too, which they would be horribly aſhamed of, ſhould they be detected in the fact by any of their London acquaintance; but ſtill, with theſe helps, the ſummer goes off tolerably well, till bad roads, bad weather, and long evenings, change the ſcene. Then comes the dire domeſtic ſtruggle: the lady expoſes with ſatire and contempt the ruſtic pleaſures that detain them in the country; the huſband retorts the pleaſures of a different nature, which, he conceives, invite her ladyſhip up to town: warmth enſues, the lady grows eloquent, the huſband coarſe, and from that time, till the day is fixed for going to London, peace is baniſhed the family.

The Bath would be of ſovereign efficacy in this caſe too, and, like the waters of Lethé, would waſh away the remembrance of theſe diſagreeable incidents; but, if that cannot be compaſſed, the laſt reſort I can recommend to theſe ladies is, by the alternate and proper uſe of clamor and ſullenneſs, invectives and tears, to reduce their huſbands to ſeek for quiet in town.

How uſeful theſe my endeavours for the ſervice of my fair countrywomen may prove, I cannot pretend to ſay; but I hope, at leaſt, they will be acceptable to them; and that, in return for my good intentions, they will admit my paper, with their tea tables, to diſſipate ſome of the tedious moments of their retirement.

XII.

XII.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Sept. 3, 1737. N° 32.

MONSIEUR de la Rochefoucault very juſtly obſerves, that people are never ridiculous from their real, but from their affected, characters; they cannot help being what they are, but they can help attempting to appear what they are not. A hump-back is by no means ridiculous, unleſs it be under a fine coat; nor a weak underſtanding, unleſs it aſſumes the luſtre and ornaments of a bright one. Good-nature conceals and pities the inevitable defects of body or mind, but is not obliged to treat acquired ones with the leaſt indulgence. Thoſe, who would paſs upon the world talents which they have not, are as guilty in the common courſe of ſociety, as thoſe who, in the way of trade, would put off falſe money, knowing it to be ſuch; and it is as much the buſineſs of ridicule to expoſe the former, as of the law to puniſh the latter.

I do not here mean to conſider the affectation of moral virtues, which comes more properly under the definition of hypocriſy, and juſtly excites our indignation and abhorrence, as a criminal deceit; but I ſhall confine myſelf now to the affectation of thoſe leſſer talents and accompliſhments, without any of which a man may be a very worthy valuable man, and only becomes a very ridiculous one by pretending to them. Thoſe people are the proper, and, it may be, the

only proper objects of ridicule; for they are above fools, who are below it, and below wise men, who are above it. They are the coxcombs lord Rochester describes as self-created, and of whom he says, that God never made one worth a groat. Besides, as they are rebels and traitors to common sense, whose natural-born subjects they are, I am justified in treating them with the utmost rigor.

I cannot be of the general opinion, that these coxcombs have first imposed upon themselves, and really think themselves what they would have others think them. On the contrary, I am persuaded that every man knows himself best, and is his own severest censor; nay, I am convinced that many a man has lived and died with faults and weaknesses, which nobody but himself ever discovered. It is true, they keep their own secrets inviolate, which makes people believe they have not found it out. Why do we discern the failings of our friends sooner and better than we do other people's, but because we interest ourselves more in them? By the same rule, we feel our own still sooner. And possibly, in this case alone, we are kinder to our friends than to ourselves; since I very much question if a man would love his friend so well if he were faultless, and he would certainly like himself the better for being so. If this supposition be true, as I think it is, my coxcombs are both the more guilty, and the more ridiculous, as they live in a constant course of practical lying, and in the absurd and sanguine hopes of passing undetected.

Fatuus, the most consummate coxcomb of this or any other age or country, has parts enough to have excelled

excelled in almoſt any one thing he would have applied himſelf to. But he muſt excel in all. He muſt be at once a wit, a lover, a ſcholar, and a ſtateſman; yet, conſcious of the impracticability of the undertaking, he parcels out his accompliſhments, and compounds to have the ſeveral branches of his merit admired in ſeparate diſtricts.

Hence, he talks politics to his women, wit to miniſters of ſtate, diſplays his learning to beaux, and brags of his ſucceſs in gallantry to his country neighbours. His caution is a proof of his guilt, and ſhews that he does not deceive himſelf, but only hopes to impoſe upon others. Fatuus's parts have undone him, and brought him to a bankruptcy of common ſenſe and judgement; as many have been ruined by great eſtates, which led them into expences they were not able to ſupport.

There are few ſo univerſal coxcombs as Fatuus, to whom I therefore gave the poſt of honor; but infinite are the numbers of minor coxcombs, who are coxcombs *quoad hoc*, and who have ſingled out certain accompliſhments, which they are reſolved to poſſeſs in ſpite of reluctant nature. Their moſt general attempts are at wit and women, as the two moſt ſhining and glittering talents in the *beau monde*.

Thus Protervus, who has a good ſerious underſtanding, contrives to paſs almoſt for a fool, becauſe he will be a wit. He muſt ſhine; he admires and purſues the luſtre of wit, which, like an *ignis fatuus*, leads him out of his way into all ſorts of abſurdities. He is awkwardly pert; he puns, twiſts words, inverts ſentences, and retails in one company the ſcraps he has

has picked up in another; but ſtill, conſcious of his own inſufficiency, he cautiouſly ſeeks to ſhine where he hopes he may dazzle, and prudently declines the encounter of the ſtrongeſt eyes. How often have I ſeen his unnatural alacrity ſuddenly confounded, and ſhrinking into ſilence, at the appearance of ſomebody of avowed and unqueſtioned wit!

Ponderoſus has a ſlow, laborious underſtanding, a good memory, and, with application, might ſucceed in buſineſs; but truly he muſt be a fine man, and ſucceed with women. He expoſes his clumſy figure by adorning it, makes declaration of love with all the form and ſolemnity of a proclamation, and ridiculouſly conſumes in revels the time he might uſefully employ at the deſk. He cannot be ignorant of his ill ſucceſs; he feels it, but endeavours to impoſe upon the world, by hinting, in one ſet of company, his ſucceſſes in another; and by whiſpering, in public places, with an air of familiarity, ſuch indifferent trifles, as would not juſtify the woman in refuſing to hear them. But how have I ſeen him ſkulk at the approach of the real favourite, and betray his conſciouſneſs of his affected character! Be it known to Ponderoſus, and all thoſe of his turn, that this vanity, beſides the abſurdity of it, leads them into a moſt immoral attempt; and that this practical defamation of a woman more juſtly deſerves an action at law, than a coarſe word raſhly uttered.

Garrulus hopes to paſs for an orator, without either words or matter; it is plain he knows his own poverty, by his laborious robbery of authors. He paſſes the nights in book-breaking, and puts off in the day-

time

time the ſtolen goods as his own; but ſo awkwardly and unſkilfully, that they are always brought back to their true owners.

Bavius, ballaſted with all the lead of a German, will riſe into poetry, without either ear or invention: he recites, what he calls his verſes, to his female relations, and his city acquaintance, but never mentions them to Pope.

Perplexus inſiſts upon being a man of buſineſs, and, though formed, at beſt, for a letter-carrier, will be a letter-writer; but, conſcious that he can neither be neceſſary nor uſeful, endeavours to be tolerated by an implicit conformity to men and times.

In ſhort, there are as many ſpecies of coxcombs, as there are deſirable qualifications and accompliſhments in life; and it would be endleſs to give inſtances of every particular vanity and affectation, by which men either make themſelves ridiculous, or, at leaſt, depreciate the other qualities they really poſſeſs. Every one's obſervation will furniſh him with examples enough of this kind. But I will now endeavour to point out the means of avoiding theſe errors; though, indeed, they are ſo obvious in themſelves, that one ſhould think it unneceſſary, if one did not daily experience the contrary.

It is very certain, that no man is fit for every thing; but it is almoſt as certain too, that there is ſcarce any one man, who is not fit for ſomething, which ſomething nature plainly points out to him, by giving him a tendency and propenſity to it. I look upon common ſenſe to be to the mind, what conſcience is to the heart, the faithful and conſtant monitor

monitor of what is right or wrong. And I am convinced that no man commits either a crime or a folly, but againſt the manifeſt and ſenſible repreſentations of the one or the other. Every man finds in himſelf, either from nature or education, for they are hard to diſtinguiſh, a peculiar bent and diſpoſition to ſome particular character; and his ſtruggling againſt it is the fruitleſs and endleſs labor of Siſyphus. Let him follow and cultivate that vocation, he will ſucceed in it, and be conſiderable in one way at leaſt; whereas, if he departs from it, he will at beſt be inconſiderable, probably ridiculous. Mankind, in general, have not the indulgence and good-nature to ſave a whole city for the ſake of five righteous; but are more inclined to condemn many righteous, for the ſake of a few guilty. And a man may eaſily ſink many virtues by the weight of one folly, but will hardly be able to protect many follies by the force of one virtue. The players, who get their parts by heart, and are to ſimulate but for three hours, have a regard, in chooſing thoſe parts, to the natural bent of their genius. Penkethman never acted Cato; nor Booth, Scrub; their invincible unfitneſs for thoſe characters would inevitably have broke out in the ſhort time of their repreſentation. How then ſhall a man hope to act with ſucceſs all his life long a borrowed and ill-ſuited character? In my mind, Pinkey got more credit by acting Scrub well, than he would have got by acting Cato ill; and I would much rather be an excellent ſhoemaker, than a ridiculous and inept miniſter of ſtate. I greatly admire our induſtrious neighbours, the Germans, for many things; but for nothing more

than their ſteady adherence to the voice of nature: they indefatigably purſue the way ſhe has chalked out to them, and never deviate into any irregularities of character. Thus many of the firſt rank, if happily turned to mechanics, have employed their whole lives in the incatenation of fleas, or the curious ſculpture of cherry-ſtones; while others, whoſe thirſt of knowledge leads them to inveſtigate the ſecrets of nature, ſpend years in their elaboratory, in purſuit of the philoſopher's ſtone: but none, that I have heard of, ever deviated into an attempt at wit. Nay, even due care is taken in the education of their princes, that they may be fit for ſomething, for they are always inſtructed in ſome other trade beſides that of government; ſo that, if their genius does not lead them to be able princes, it is ten to one but they are excellent turners.

I will conclude my remonſtrance to the coxcombs of Great Britain with this admonition and engagement, that "they diſband their affectations, and "common ſenſe ſhall be their friend." Otherwiſe I ſhall proceed to further extremities, and ſingle out, from time to time, the moſt daring offenders.

I muſt obſerve, that the word *coxcomb* is of the common gender, both maſculine and feminine; and that the male coxcombs are equalled in number by the female ones, who ſhall be the ſubject of my next paper.

XIII.

XIII.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Sept. 10, 1737. N° 33.

HAVING, in my former paper, cenſured, with freedom, the affectations and follies of my own ſex, I flatter myſelf, that I ſhall meet with the indulgence of the ladies, while I conſider, with the ſame impartiality, thoſe weakneſſes and vanities to which their ſex is as liable as ours, and, if I dare ſay ſo, rather more, as their ſphere of action is more bounded and circumſcribed. Man's province is univerſal, and comprehends every thing, from the culture of the earth, to the government of it; men only become coxcombs, by aſſuming particular characters, for which they are particularly unfit, though others may ſhine in thoſe very characters. But the caſe of the fair ſex is quite different; for there are many characters which are not of the feminine gender, and, conſequently, there may be two kinds of women coxcombs; thoſe who affect what does not fall within their department; and thoſe who go out of their own natural characters, though they keep within the female province.

I ſhould be very ſorry to offend, where I only mean to adviſe and reform; I therefore hope the fair ſex will pardon me, when I give ours this preference. Let them reflect, that each ſex has its diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic: and if they can with juſtice, as certainly they may, brand a man with the name of a

cott-

cott-quean, if he invades a certain female detail, which is unqueſtionably their prerogative, may not we, with equal juſtice, retort upon them, when, laying aſide their natural characters, they aſſume thoſe which are appropriated to us? The delicacy of their texture, and the ſtrength of ours, the beauty of their form, and the coarſeneſs of ours, ſufficiently indicate the reſpective vocations. Was Hercules ridiculous and contemptible with his diſtaff? Omphale would not have been leſs ſo at a review or a council-board. Women are not formed for great cares themſelves, but to ſooth and ſoften ours: their tenderneſs is the proper reward for the toils we undergo for their preſervation; and the eaſe and chearfulneſs of their converſation, our deſirable retreat from the labors of ſtudy and buſineſs. They are confined within the narrow limits of domeſtic offices; and, when they ſtray beyond them, they move excentrically, and conſequently without grace.

Agrippina, born with an underſtanding and diſpoſitions, which could, at beſt, have qualified her for the ſordid help-mate of a pawnbroker or uſurer, pretends to all the accompliſhments that ever adorned man or woman, without the poſſeſſion, or even the true knowledge, of any one of them. She would appear learned, and has juſt enough of all things, without comprehending any one, to make her talk abſurdly upon every thing. She looks upon the art of pleaſing as her maſter-piece, but miſtakes the means ſo much, that her flattery is too groſs for ſelf-love to ſwallow, and her lies too palpable to deceive for a moment; ſo that ſhe ſhocks thoſe ſhe would gain.

Mean

Mean tricks, ſhallow cunning, and breach of faith, conſtitute her miſtaken ſyſtem of politics. She endeavours to appear generous at the expence of trifles, while an indiſcreet and unguarded rapaciouſneſs diſcovers her natural and inſatiable avidity. Thus miſtaking the perfections ſhe would ſeem to poſſeſs, and the means of acquiring even them, ſhe becomes the moſt ridiculous, inſtead of the moſt complete, of her ſex.

Eudoſia, the moſt frivolous woman in the world, condemns her own ſex for being too trifling. She deſpiſes the agreeable levity and chearfulneſs of a mixed company; ſhe will be ſerious, that ſhe will; and emphatically intimates, that ſhe thinks reaſon and good ſenſe very valuable things. She never mixes in the general converſation, but ſingles out ſome one man, whom ſhe thinks worthy of her good ſenſe, and in a half voice, or *ſotto voce*, diſcuſſes her ſolid trifles in his ear, dwells particularly upon the moſt trifling circumſtances of the main trifle, which ſhe enforces with the proper inclinations of head and body, and with the moſt expreſſive geſticulations of the fan, modeſtly confeſſing every now and then, by way of parentheſis, that poſſibly it may be thought preſumption in a woman to talk at all upon thoſe matters. In the mean time, her unhappy hearer ſtifles a thouſand gapes, aſſents univerſally to whatever ſhe ſays, in hopes of ſhortening the converſation, and carefully watches the firſt favourable opportunity, which any motion in the company gives him, of making his eſcape from this excellent ſolid underſtanding. Thus deſerted, but not diſcouraged, ſhe takes the whole company

company in their turns, and has, for every one, a whisper of equal importance. If Eudosia would content herself with her natural talents, play at cards, make tea and visits, talk to her dog often, and to her company but sometimes, she would not be ridiculous, but bear a very tolerable part in the polite world.

Sydaria had beauty enough to have excused, while young, her want of common sense. But she scorned the fortuitous and precarious triumphs of beauty. She would only conquer by the charms of her mind. An union of hearts, a delicacy of sentiments, a mental adoration, or a sort of tender quietism, were what she long sought for, and never found. Thus nature struggled with sentiment till she was five and forty, but then got the better of it to such a degree, that she made very advantageous proposals to an Irish ensign of one and twenty: equally ridiculous in her age and in her youth.

Canidia, withered by age, and shattered by infirmities, totters under the load of her misplaced ornaments, and her dress varies according to the freshest advices from Paris, instead of conforming itself, as it ought, to the directions of her undertaker. Her mind, as weak as her body, is absurdly adorned: she talks politics and metaphysics, mangles the terms of each, and, if there be sense in either, most infallibly puzzles it; adding intricacy to politics, and darkness to mysteries, equally ridiculous in this world and the next.

I shall not now enter into an examination of the lesser affectations (most of them are pardonable, and many of them are pretty, if their owners are so); but

confine my present animadversions to the affectations of ill-suited characters, for I would by no means deprive my fair countrywomen of their genteel little terrors, antipathies, and affections. The alternate panicks of thieves, spiders, ghosts, and thunder, are allowable to youth and beauty, provided they do not survive them. But what I mean is, to prevail with them to act their own natural parts, and not other peoples; and to convince them, that even their own imperfections will become them better than the borrowed perfections of others.

Should some lady of spirit, unjustly offended at these restrictions, ask what province I leave to their sex? I answer, that I leave them whatever has not been peculiarly assigned by nature to ours. I leave them a mighty empire, Love. There they reign absolute, and by unquestioned right, while beauty supports their throne. They have all the talents requisite for that soft empire, and the ablest of our sex cannot contend with them in the profound knowledge and conduct of those *arcana*. But then, those who are deposed by years or accidents, or those, who by nature were never qualified to reign, should content themselves with the private care and œconomy of their families, and the diligent discharge of domestic duties.

I take the fabulous birth of Minerva, the goddess of arms, wisdom, arts, and sciences, to have been an allegory of the antients, calculated to shew, that women of natural and usual births must not aim at those accomplishments. She sprang armed out of Jupiter's head, without the co-operation of his consort Juno;

and as such only had those great provinces assigned her.

I confess, one has read of ladies, such as Semiramis, Thalestris, and others, who have made very considerable figures in the most heroic and manly parts of life; but, considering the great antiquity of those histories, and how much they are mixed up with fables, one is at liberty to question either the facts, or the sex. Besides that, the most ingenious and erudite Conrad Wolfang Laboriosus Nugatorius, of Hall in Saxony, has proved to a demonstration, in the 14th volume, page 2981, of his learned treatise *De Hermaphroditis*, that all the reputed female heroes of antiquity were of this Epicene species, though, out of regard to the fair and modest part of my readers, I dare not quote the several facts and reasonings with which he supports this assertion; and as for the heroines of modern date, we have more than suspicions of their being at least of the epicene gender. The greatest monarch that ever filled the British throne, till very lately, was queen Elizabeth, of whose sex we have abundant reason to doubt, history furnishing us with many instances of the manhood of that princess, without leaving us one single symptom or indication of the woman; and thus much is certain, that she thought it improper for her to marry a man. The great Christina, queen of Sweden, was allowed by every body to be above her sex; and the masculine was so predominant in her composition, that she even conformed, at last, to its dress, and ended her days in Italy. I therefore require that those women, who insist upon going beyond the bounds allotted to their

ſex, ſhould previouſly declare themſelves in form hermaphrodites, and be regiſtered as ſuch in their ſeveral pariſhes; till when, I ſhall not ſuffer them to confound politics, perplex metaphyſics, and darken myſteries.

How amiable may a woman be, what a comfort and delight to her acquaintance, her friends, her relations, her lover, or her huſband, in keeping ſtrictly within her character! She adorns all female virtues with native female ſoftneſs. Women, while untainted by affectation, have a natural chearfulneſs of mind, tenderneſs and benignity of heart, which juſtly endears them to us, either to animate our joys, or ſooth our ſorrows; but how are they changed, and how ſhocking do they become, when the rage of ambition, or the pride of learning, agitates and ſwells thoſe breaſts, where only love, friendſhip, and tender care, ſhould dwell!

Let Flavia be their model, who, though ſhe could ſupport any character, aſſumes none, never miſled by fancy or vanity, but guided ſingly by reaſon: whatever ſhe ſays or does is the manifeſt reſult of a happy nature, and a good underſtanding, though ſhe knows whatever women ought, and, it may be, more than they are required to know. She conceals the ſuperiority ſhe has with as much care, as others take to diſplay the ſuperiority they have not; ſhe conforms herſelf to the turn of the company ſhe is in, but in a way of rather avoiding to be diſtanced, than deſiring to take the lead. Are they merry, ſhe is chearful; are they grave, ſhe is ſerious; are they abſurd, ſhe is ſilent. Though ſhe thinks and ſpeaks as a man would

would do, she effeminates, if I may use the expression, whatever she says, and gives all the graces of her own sex to the strength of ours; she is well-bred without the troublesome ceremonies and frivolous forms of those who only affect to be so. As her good-breeding proceeds jointly from good-nature and good sense, the former inclines her to oblige, and the latter shews her the easiest and best way of doing it. Woman's beauty, like men's wit, is generally fatal to the owners, unless directed by a judgement, which seldom accompanies a great degree of either: her beauty seems but the proper and decent lodging for such a mind; she knows the true value of it, and far from thinking that it authorizes impertinence and coquetry, it redoubles her care to avoid those errors that are its usual attendants. Thus she not only unites in herself all the advantages of body and mind, but even reconciles contradictions in others; for she is loved and esteemed, though envied, by all.

XIV.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, October 8, 1737. N° 37.

SOMEBODY told the late regent of France *, that a very silly parish priest had abused him most grosly in the pulpit; to which the regent, who was much above resenting the insults of fools, answered

* The duke of Orleans, who was regent during the minority of Lewis XV.

very coolly, " Why does the blockhead meddle with " me? I am not of his parish."

In this manner I reply to all the anger and indignation, which the grave Mr. Osborne, and the facetious sir A. B. C. have been pleased to express against me. Cannot they let me alone? I am sure they have nothing to do with common sense. Nay, I even return them good for evil, and do for them what I believe nobody in the kingdom does but myself; for I take-in their papers at my own expence. It is true, I find my account in it, for the Gazetteer makes me laugh, and the London Journal makes me sleep. I take the former in the morning, and the latter at night. Sir A. B. C. and his associates have such an absurd pertness, and so inimitable an alacrity in sinking, that it is impossible not to laugh at first, though, I confess, they are below it, and that it is a little ill-natured into the bargain. But one can no more help it, than one can help laughing at an awkward fellow, who, going to sit down, misses his chair, and falls ridiculously upon his breech; though, to be sure, there is no joke in it, and very probably the poor man has hurt himself too. Mr. Osborne has quite a different effect upon me; his solid uniform dulness is the surest soporific I have met with; and every Saturday night, as soon as I am in bed, my man constantly asks me, " Does your honor take your London Journal to-" night?" I never refuse his offer, and, to do him justice, he reads with a slow monotony, so excellently adapted to the performance, that one would think he was the author of it himself.

Thus,

Thus, after taking these two authors regularly, night and morning, they are carefully laid by in a little closet, where I ultimately take them, as they happen to lie next my hand.

I have lately heard, with concern, that I shall soon be deprived of these benefits, and that my two favourite authors will withdraw their weekly and daily labors from the public, in order to exhibit themselves in other shapes. Mr. Osborne, I am told, has engaged himself to supply the stage with tragedies, and sir A. B. C. with comedies; that it may not be said, that the late act of parliament has prevented the production of excellent dramatic performances, as some of the malecontents pretended it would. Though this will disturb the present regular course of my present laughter, which I must afterwards take by the lump, and in twelve-penny doses, yet I must acknowledge them to be the propereſt authors to answer the true meaning and intendment of the bill: for I will defy the most inveterate and ingenious malice, even that of the Craftsman, to apply any thing out of their writings. With what impatience do I long to see the tragic scenes of our laureat disgraced and eclipsed by Osborne's solid drama! Yes, Osborne shall snatch the poppies from Cibber's brow, and plant them on his own. I cannot help suggesting, as a friend, to this hopeful young tragic poet, that there is in the Rehearsal both a sleeping scene, and a yawning one, incomparably well written, which I would advise him to have before his eyes, while he can keep them open.

I condole with the ingenious author of "Love in "a hollow tree *," who must, indisputably, resign the comic scenes to sir A. B. C.

As I am persuaded these two young writers will have the stage entirely to themselves, I most humbly represent it to the lord chamberlain, as a piece of justice, to have their labors equally divided between the managers of the two only theatres now subsisting. The comedy, I believe, must belong to Mr. Rich; for, I presume, sir A. B. C. after the distinguished zeal he has manifested for the protestant religion, in opposition to the attempts of Mr. Ward, would by no means aid and abet a person of Mr. Fleetwood's principles of religion.

Having said thus much to my two friends, to whom I give my word I will never say any thing more, I cannot conclude, without addressing myself a little to their patron and pay-master. He has certainly parts, a pretty turn to waggery, a little coarse indeed, but yet not without salt; and one must allow him to be what Tully allowed Nævius, "*scurra non parum facetus*," (a buffoon not destitute of some humor). I therefore cannot imagine why he will suffer, much

* This comedy was written by the late lord Grimston when a boy, and printed in 1705. When he grew up, he was justly ashamed of it, and endeavoured to suppress it: and this he would have effected, but that the dutchess of Marlborough, to serve an election purpose, caused a new impression to be printed, with an elephant in the title-page dancing on a rope. All this edition the author purchased; but her grace, being determined to accomplish her design, sent a copy to be re-printed in Holland, and distributed the whole impression among the electors of St. Albans. See the Original Works, in verse and prose, of Dr. William King of the Commons, 1776, vol. III. p. 66. *note*.

less

leſs pay, ſuch blockheads to write for him. I know he will ſay, they are the beſt he can get. I admit it, I dare ſay they are: but then why will he have any? He had much better have none. Sylla bought-off a dunce who would be writing for him, and Auguſtus paid a bad poet, in bad verſes, as the ſureſt way to prevent any more. If theſe fellows are to be paid for their zeal, let the honorable perſon oblige them to throw him their ſilence into the bargain. Formerly, a right reverend or two uſed to draw their pens in his defence, but of late we have ſeen nothing from that quarter neither; whether thoſe reverend perſons have too much wit, or too much biſhoprick, to go on, I cannot tell: but this piece of advice I will give him, whenever he can get another author of that kind to write for him, not to *tranſlate* him too ſoon.

This certainly never happened in any reign, or under any adminiſtration, before; for, excepting a late imitation of Horace, by Mr. Pope, who but ſeldom meddles with public matters, I challenge the miniſterial advocates to produce one line of ſenſe, or Engliſh, written on the ſame ſide of the queſtion for theſe laſt ſeven years. Has there been an eſſay in verſe or proſe, has there been even a diſtich, or an advertiſement, fit to be read on the ſide of the adminiſtration? But on the other ſide, what numbers of diſſertations, eſſays, treatiſes, compoſitions of all kinds in verſe and proſe, have been written, with all that ſtrength of reaſoning, quickneſs of wit, and elegance of expreſſion, which no former period of time can equal? Has not every body got by heart ſatires, lampoons, ballads, and ſarcaſms, againſt the adminiſtration?

ſtration? and can any body recollect, or repeat, one line for it? What can be the cauſe of this? It cannot be, that thoſe who are able to ſerve the honourable perſon deſpair of being rewarded by him, ſince the known inſtances of his liberality to the worſt of writers are ſure pledges of his profuſion to the beſt. Is it then the rigid virtue, the inflexible honor, of the brighteſt geniuſes of this age, that hinders them from engaging in that cauſe, for which they would be ſo amply recompenſed? If ſo, I congratulate the preſent times, for that was not uſually the characteriſtic of wit, and they were formerly accuſed of flattery at leaſt, if not of proſtitution, to miniſterial favour and rewards.

In all former reigns, the wits were of the ſide of the miniſters; the Oſbornes and the A. B. C's againſt them. And how would the Godolphins, the Somers's, the Halifax's, and the Dorſets, have bluſhed, to have been the Mæcenas of ſuch wretched ſcribblers? But they were not reduced to ſuch an ignominious neceſſity. They found the beſt writers as proud to engage in their cauſe, as able to ſupport it. Even the infamous and pernicious meaſures of King Charles the ſecond's reign, as they are now called, were palliated, varniſhed, or juſtified, by the ableſt pens. By what uncommon fatality then is this adminiſtration deſtitute of all literary ſupport?

One would be apt to ſuppoſe, if one did not know the contrary, that there was ſomething in the meaſures ſo low, ſo corrupt, and ſo diſgraceful, that common decency would not ſuffer wit, or good ſenſe, to appear on that ſide, but made them, in this

this caſe, withſtand thoſe temptations, to which heretofore they have too often yielded. Nay, the misfortune extends ſtill farther: for I am told, that among thoſe very few, who engaged in the meaſures, and are able to countenance them in two certain places, the beſt withhold their eloquence, and only ſwell the numbers by a ſilent and ſullen concurrence. So that, as Pliny obſerved in his time, *Vota nunc numerantur, non ponderantur* (votes now are counted, not weighed).

As this caſe is really compaſſionate in itſelf, and particularly hard upon us anti-miniſterial writers, as we are called, who cannot poſſibly anſwer what we do not underſtand; I will offer what expedients occur to me, for our mutual relief.

I ſhould think Mr. Wreathcock and Mr. Juſtice, who are both happily returned from tranſportation, might be of ſingular uſe in this diſtreſs. The experienced knowledge of the former in the uſeful parts of the law, and the known ſkill of the latter in books of all ſorts, muſt qualify them excellently well for political writers; and if they clubbed their talents, they would amply repair the loſs of the deceaſed Francis Walſingham, eſq; or, at leaſt, they would infinitely exceed any now extant. But, if this cannot be brought about, and the avocations of theſe two gentlemen will not allow them the leiſure to turn authors, the laſt ſhift I can think of, and which ſeems to me the moſt likely to be put in practice, is for the adminiſtration to employ their authors of acts of parliament, who anſwered certain humorous theatrical pieces very effectually laſt year, with a "Be it en-

"acted,"

"acted *," and who, with a "Be it further enacted," will probably reply next year, with the same spirit and vigor, to all other performances of what kind soever.

XV.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Jan. 15, 1738. N° 51.

MY ingenious predecessor the Spectator, whom I wish to imitate, but without pretending to equal, bid his fair countrywomen, "beware the Ides "of May," looking upon that season to be as fatal to their virtue, as the Ides of March had formerly proved to Cæsar's life. I am sure I heartily concur with him, in his regard and concern for that beautiful part of our species: but I cannot help differing with him greatly, as to the time and causes of their danger, and thinking that he has left the most critical part of the year unguarded and defenceless. Beware, therefore, ye fair, say I, the Ides of January; and muster-up all the collected force of habit, education, and virtue, to withstand the operations of the winter campaign, or you may happen to fall with less decency than Cæsar.

The Spectator founds his apprehensions of the month of May upon three suppositions, all which,

* In allusion to a thought of Mr. Gay, who addressed a poem to his ingenious and worthy friend Mr. Lowndes, "author of that ce-"lebrated treatise in folio, called *The Land Tax Bill.*"

with

with ſubmiſſion, I think groundleſs. The firſt is, "that the ſpirits, after having been, as it were, frozen "and congealed by the winter, are then turned looſe, "and ſet a rambling."

Surely the ſpirits may more juſtly be ſaid to be turned looſe, and ſet a rambling, in January, after a tedious ſix months confinement in the country, than they can be in May, after a four months evaporation in London. For my own part, I conſider January as the general gaol-delivery of the fair ſex. It is then that they come to town, flushed with the health, and irritated with the confinement, of the country. It is then that, with an appetite whetted for pleaſure by long abſtinence, they taſte more exquiſitely their regained liberty, and feel all the benefits of their *habeas corpus*. And if ever conſtitution or reſentment can be ſuppoſed to have any ſhare in a fine woman's tranſactions, it is then that their effects are moſt to be dreaded.

The Spectator's next ſuppoſition is, "that the gay "proſpect of the fields and the meadows, with the "courtſhip of the birds on every tree, naturally un-"bend the mind, and ſoften it to pleaſure." What effect this rural ſcene may have upon a milkmaid, I cannot ſay; but I can never imagine that women of faſhion and delicacy can be affected by ſuch objects. The fields and the meadows are their averſion, and the periodical anniverſary loves of the birds their contempt. It is the gay London ſcene, where ſucceſſive pleaſures raiſe the ſpirits and warm the imagination, which prepares the faireſt breaſts to receive the tendereſt impreſſions.

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The laſt conjecture is, " that a woman is prompted " by a kind of inſtinct to throw herſelf upon a bed " of flowers, and not to let thoſe beautiful couches, " which nature has provided, lye uſeleſs." This again evidently relates to the ruddy milkmaid; for, not to mention the danger of catching cold upon one of theſe beds, to any body above a milkmaid, ſurely the privacy, conveniency, and ſecurity, of a good damaſk-bed, or couch, are much ſtronger temptations to a woman of faſhion, to recline a little, than all the dazies and cowſlips in a meadow.

Having thus briefly anſwered the arguments of my predeceſſor, or at leaſt ſhewn, that his care and concern were only calculated for the inferior part of the ſex; I ſhall, now, humbly lay before thoſe of ſuperior rank the many " difficulties and dangers," to which the winter expoſes them.

I believe I may take it for granted, that every fine woman, who comes to town in January, comes heartily tired both of the country and of her huſband. The happy pair have yawned at one another at leaſt ever ſince Michaelmas, and the two indiviſible halves, of man and wife, have been exceedingly burthenſome to each other. The lady, who has had full leiſure moſt minutely to conſider her other moiety, has either poſitively or comparatively found out, that he is by no means a pretty man, and meditates indemnification to herſelf, either by her return to the pretty man, or by enliſting one for the current ſervice of the year. In theſe diſpoſitions ſhe opens the winter, but at the ſame time, with firm and ſtedfaſt purpoſe of not tranſgreſſing the bounds,

or

or even violating the appearances, of virtue. But alas! how frail are all our beſt reſolves! The lover appears firſt in the innocent form of value and eſteem, his converſation is liſtened to with attention, and approved of: it grows frequent and particular; how can one help that? Where is the harm of being diſtinguiſhed by the friendſhip of a man of ſenſe and faſhion? can it be wondered at, that one converſes more with him, than with a thouſand fools, that would be always plaguing one? Beſides, he ſays nothing one has reaſon to take ill, or that would juſtify one in not being civil to him.

With theſe early and juſt diſtinctions in his favour, the pretty man proceeds, and gains the more ground, as his approaches are the leſs perceived or apprehended. He is admitted to the toilette, as an agreeable friend and companion, where he improves the morning moments, which I take to be the *mollia tempora*, ſo propitious to *tête-à-têtes:* here the converſation inſenſibly grows more ſerious, particular applications are made of general topics, ſentiments of love and conſtancy are diſcuſſed; the pretty man confeſſes and laments his unfortunate diſpoſition to both, and wiſhes to heaven that he knew neither; the lady, not without ſome emotion, and an awkward ſmartneſs, tells him that ſhe believes they will neither of them ever do him any great hurt. This unjuſt reproach extorts from him, what otherwiſe he could never have had the courage to have ſaid, *viz.* that, "that depends entirely upon her." Here it is out, the ice is broke. What is to be done? The lady now plainly perceives his meaning, which ſhe never

before

before ſuſpected. She flattered herſelf that he had a friendſhip and value for her, but ſhe now finds the contrary. She is ſorry he has put it out of her power to have any longer that eſteem for him which ſhe confeſſes ſhe once had; but they muſt never meet any more, if that is to be the language. The lover, for now I may call him ſo, deprecates her wrath, bids her blame her own beauty, and his fate, but pity him, and preſſing her hand, which, it may be, in her anger, ſhe forgets to pull away, faithfully promiſes, never to hold that language more, if he can help it. Upon this ſolemn engagement, he is forgiven, re-admitted, and all danger is looked upon to be over. Short and fallacious ſecurity! for, this point once gained, the beſieger, if I may borrow ſome military metaphors, is moſt advantageouſly poſted, is in a ſituation to parley with the garriſon, and ſtands fair for the *horn-work*. Here he can argue the caſe fully, ſhew the negligence, the injuſtice, or the oppreſſion, of the preſent governor, offer terms of honor, ſafety, and better uſage, and, by perſuaſions, either bring about a willing ſurrender, or at leaſt ſo far abate the vigor of the reſiſtance, as with a little force to make himſelf maſter of the place.

Having thus repreſented the danger, I will now point out the beſt preſervatives, I can think of, againſt it; for in this caſe prevention alone can be uſed, remedy comes too late.

I therefore recommend to my countrywomen, to be particularly upon their guard againſt the very man whoſe conqueſt they moſt wiſh for, and to be aſſured that the reaſons which determine their choice are ſo

many

many inſtances of their danger. Let them begin to reflect as ſoon as ever they begin to find a particular pleaſure in his converſation, and let them tremble when they firſt make him a graver curteſy than they do to other people. But if, when he approaches them, they pull up their gloves, adjuſt their tucker, and count the ſticks of their fan, let them deſpair, for they are further gone than they imagine. And though they may, for a time, deceive themſelves with the notion that it is his underſtanding only that engages their attention, they will find at laſt that man, like the ſerpent, when he has once got his head in, the reſt will ſoon follow. Friendſhip and eſteem are the bearded arrows of love, that enter with eaſe, but, when torn out, leave the wound greater.

A conſtant diſſipation, and hurry of various trifles, is of great uſe in this caſe, and does not give leiſure to the mind to receive laſting impreſſions; but beware of ſelect *coteries*, where, without an engagement, a lady paſſes but for "an odd body."

A courſe of viſiting-days is alſo an excellent preſervative againſt an attachment. The rigorous ſentences of thoſe tremendous tribunals, fulminated by the old and ugly upon the young and fair, and where, as in the inquiſition, the ſlighteſt ſuſpicions amount to proofs, muſt neceſſarily ſtrike great terror, and inſpire wholeſome reſolutions.

I abſolutely prohibit balls; the agitation of country-dances putting the blood into an unuſual ferment, too favourable to the partner. Beſides, they often encourage, and cauſe, the firſt ſqueeze by the hand; which, according as it is taken, is either laid to the

violence of the passion, or excused by the impetuosity of the dance. Morever, there is a certain figure called *setting*, that often occasions a familiar collision, which I have often known ominous, and in its consequences productive of *other figures*.

Masquerades should be used with great care and moderation; for, though I do not look upon them as either convenient or necessary for the ratification of mutual love and alliance, I hold them to be exceedingly commodious for the previous negotiations; and there are certain secret articles in those treaties, which are better asked, heard, and adjusted, between the contracting parties, under a masque than barefaced.

I have no objection to operas; the innocence of the composition admitting of no application, and conveying no idea whatsoever: what little inconveniencies might be apprehended from the softness and tenderness of the music are amply counterbalanced, *Sopranos* being the objects of the attention, and raptures of the ladies. And I have even known this harmless musical attachment stand many a fine woman in great stead.

But I require them to be very cautious in the choice and use of the other theatrical entertainments, and avoid the representation of those dramatic pieces, both tragic and comic, which seem only calculated to soften the heart, and inflame the imagination. What warm and pleasing descriptions of love are our best tragedies filled with! It is commonly what the whole turns upon, and is represented as the only comfort, pleasure, or joy, of life. It is described, as

"The

" The cordial drop, heaven in our cup has thrown,
" To make the nauſeous draught of life go down."

And can one wonder then, that a lady, who does not find this incomparable drop at home, ſhould ſeek for it elſewhere?

We are told, in another place, that,

" Life without love is load, and time ſtands ſtill:
" What we refuſe to love to death we give,
" And, then, then only when we love we live."

This at once explains the whole thing to them, and accounts for their being tired of their country *tête-à-têtes* with their huſbands, and for their ſaying ſo often, " Well! this is not living!" It ſeems it was all for want of love; an omiſſion which they reſolve not to be much longer guilty of.

Mr. Dryden expreſſes himſelf with ſtill more energy upon this ſubject in Aurengzebe, and paints it in the warmeſt and moſt glowing colors; with him, it is the pleaſure,

" Where nature ſums up all her joys in one;"

and which,

" So fills the ſenſes, that the ſoul ſeems fled,
" And thought itſelf does for the time lie dead."

Muſt not ſuch lively deſcriptions as theſe, independently of certain hints of nature, tempt curioſity to make a trial of the truth? And is it poſſible not to pity, rather than blame, the experiments which a lady is thus ſtrongly prompted to make?

But this is not all: for, leſt theſe tender ſentiments and luſcious deſcriptions ſhould only ſoften the heart, our beſt comedies come in to their aid, with their practical part, and pin the baſket. Here the ways

and means are chalked out, the pleasing progress of love delineated, and even the conclusion of it almost exhibited. It is unlucky for the audience, that Berynthia, in the Relapse, had an inner room, where she and her lover retire. But, however, that the audience may not be much longer in the dark than she had been, she takes care to inform them, that she never was better pleased in all her life.

Belinda, in taking her leave of Mr. Dorimant, after having passed part of the night with him, seems most penitentially to say, "Well, were this to do "again;" but, upon Mr. Dorimant's answering, "We should do it, should not we?" she tenderly replies, "I believe we should." Can one refuse to give credit to the so recent testimonies and experience of two ladies of such agreeable characters? And the belief of a pleasure naturally invites to the pursuit of it.

It would be endless to specify the particular plays which I must totally prohibit; but I believe the best and shortest general rule, that I can give my countrywomen, is absolutely to abstain from all those which they like best.

There are certain bookstoo, of a most stimulating and inflammatory nature, a few doses of which may throw the reader into such a fever, that all the cooling and soporific volumes of our modern divines may not be able to abate, and which can only be cured by strong sudorifics. The catalogue of these books would be endless: but my fair readers will pretty well guess at them, when I tell them, that I mean those which are generally kept under lock and key, and

which

which, when any body comes in, are immediately clapt under the cushion.

I have but one caution more to add; but that is, it may be, the most material one of all; to beware of morning-visits. Breakfast-time is a critical period; the spirits are fresh and active; and, if the watchful lover comes in soon after the drowsy husband is gone out, it presents to the lady a contrast too favourable to the former. The interposing tea-table is but a weak barrier against impatient love. Opportunity invites, resentment provokes, nature at least approves; and, in such a violent situation,

"She, who alone her lover can withstand,
"Is more than woman, or he less than man."

XVI.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Feb. 11, 1738. N° 54.

"Ne vitam transeant, veluti pecora; quæ natura prona, atque "ventri obedientia finxit." SALLUST.

Lest they should pass their time like the beasts, which are by nature disposed to grovel upon this earth, and be slaves to their bellies.

TASTE is now the fashionable word of the fashionable world. Every thing must be done with taste: that is settled; but where and what that taste is, is not quite so certain; for, after all the pains I have taken to find out what was meant by the word, and whether those who use it oftenest had any clear

idea annexed to it, I have only been able negatively to discover, that they do not mean their own natural taste, but, on the contrary, that they have sacrificed it to an imaginary one, of which they can give no account. They build houses in taste, which they cannot live in with conveniency *; they suffer with impatience the music they pretend to hear with rapture; and they even eat nothing they like, for the sake of eating in taste.

Not for himself, he sees, or hears, or eats;
Artists must chuse his pictures, music, meats. POPE.

It is certain the commandments, now so much neglected, if not abrogated, might be observed with much less self-denial than these imaginary laws of taste, to which so exact and scrupulous an obedience is paid.

I take taste, when not used for the sensation of the palate, which is its proper signification, to be a metaphor, to express that judgement each man forms to himself of those things which are not contained in any certain rules, and which admit of no demonstration: thus circles and equilateral triangles allow of no taste, they must be as they are; but the colors they are drawn in, or the materials they are made of, depend upon fancy or taste.—In building, there are certain necessary rules founded upon nature, as, that

* This was the case of a general, who, having applied to an English nobleman, celebrated for his taste in architecture, to direct the building of a house for himself, had one constructed indeed with great elegance and regularity on the outside, but altogether destitute of every convenience for a family to live in. Lord Chesterfield, upon seeing it, told the general, "If I had your house, I would hire the "opposite one to live in, and enjoy the prospect."

the

the ſtronger muſt ſupport the weaker, &c. but the ornamental and convenient parts are the objects of taſte. Hence ariſes the propriety of the metaphor, becauſe taſte in every thing is undetermined and perſonal, as in the palate and all our other ſenſes; nay even our minds are as differently affected as our palates by the ſame things, when thoſe things are not of a nature to be aſcertained and demonſtrated.

However, this right of taſting for one's ſelf, which ſeems to be the natural privilege of mankind, is now totally ſurrendered even in the proper ſenſe of the word; and, if a man would be well received in good company, he muſt eat, though with reluctance, according to the laws of ſome eminent glutton at Paris, promulgated here by the laſt-imported French cook, wiſhing all the while within himſelf, that he durſt avow his natural taſte for good native beef and pudding.

The abſurdity, as well as the real ill conſequences, of this prevailing affectation, has, I confeſs, excited my wrath; and I reſolved that the nobility and gentry of this kingdom ſhould not go on to ruin their fortunes and conſtitutions, without hearing at leaſt the repreſentations and admonitions of common ſenſe.

Eating, itſelf, ſeems to me, to be rather a ſubject of humiliation than of pride, ſince the imperfection of our nature appears in the daily neceſſity we lie under of recruiting it in that manner. So that one would think the only care of a rational being ſhould be, to repair his decaying fabric as cheap as poſſible. But the preſent faſhion is directly contrary: and eat-

ing, now, is the greateſt pride, buſineſs, and expence, of life, and that too, not to ſupport, but to deſtroy nature.

The frugal meal was antiently the time of unbending the mind by chearful and improving converſation, and the table-talk of ingenious men has been thought worth tranſmitting to poſterity. The meal is now at once the moſt frivolous and moſt ſerious part of life. The mind is bent to the utmoſt, and all the attention exerted, for what? the critical examination of compound diſhes: and if any two or three people happen to ſtart ſome uſeful or agreeable ſubject of converſation, they are ſoon interrupted, and overpowered by the extatic interjections of, excellent! exquiſite! delicious! Pray taſte this; you never eat a better thing in your life. Is that good? Is it tender? Is it ſeaſoned enough? Would it have been better ſo? Of ſuch wretched ſtuff as this does the preſent table-talk wholly conſiſt, in open defiance of all converſation and common ſenſe. I could heartily wiſh that a collection of it were to be publiſhed, for the honor and glory of the performers; but, for want of that, I ſhall give my readers a ſhort ſpecimen of the moſt ingenious table-talk, I have lately heard carried on with moſt wit and ſpirit.

My lord, having taſted and duly conſidered the Bechamele, ſhook his head, and then offered as his opinion to the company, that the garlick was not enough concealed, but earneſtly deſired to know their ſentiments, and begged they would taſte it with attention.

The

The company, after proper deliberation, replied, that they were of his lordſhip's opinion, and that the garlick did indeed diſtinguiſh itſelf too much: but the *maître d'hôtel* interpoſing repreſented, that they were now ſtronger than ever in garlick at Paris; upon which the company, one and all, ſaid, that altered the caſe.

My lord, having ſagaciouſly ſmelt at the breech of a rabbit, wiped his noſe, gave a ſhrug of ſome diſſatisfaction, and then informed the company, that it was not abſolutely a bad one, but that he heartily wiſhed it had been kept a day longer. Ay, ſaid ſir Thomas, with an emphaſis, a rabbit muſt be kept. And with the guts in too, added the colonel, or the devil could not eat it. Here the *maître d'hôtel* again interpoſed, and ſaid that they eat their rabbits much ſooner now than they uſed to do at Paris. Are you ſure of that? ſaid my lord, with ſome vivacity. Yes, replied the *maître d'hôtel*, the cook had a letter about it laſt night. I am not ſorry for that, rejoined my lord; for, to tell you the truth, I naturally love to eat my meat before it ſtinks. The reſt of the company, and even the colonel himſelf, confeſſed the ſame.

This ingenious and edifying kind of converſation continued, without the leaſt interruption from common ſenſe, through four courſes, which laſted four hours, till the company could neither ſwallow nor utter any thing more.

A very great perſon among the antients was very properly aſked, if he was not aſhamed to play ſo well upon the fiddle? And one may ſurely with as much

reaſon

reaſon aſk theſe illuſtrious moderns, if they are not aſhamed of being ſuch good cooks.

It is really not to be imagined with what profound knowledge and erudition our men of quality now treat theſe culinary ſubjects; and I cannot but hope that ſuch excellent critics will at laſt turn authors themſelves; nay, I daily expect to ſee a digeſt of the whole art of cookery by ſome perſon of honor.

I cannot help hinting, by the way, to theſe accurate kitchen critics, that it does not become them to be facetious and ſatyrical upon thoſe diſſertations which ladies ſometimes hold upon their dreſs, the ſubject being by no means ſo low nor ſo trifling.

Though ſuch a degree of affected gluttony, accompanied with ſuch frivolous diſcourſes, is pardonable in thoſe who are little ſuperior to the animals they devour, and who are only *fruges conſumere nati*, I am ſurprized and hurt when I ſee men of parts fall into it, ſince it not only ſuſpends the exerciſe of their parts for the preſent, but impairs them, together with their health, for the future: and, if fools could contrive, I ſhould think they had contrived this method of bringing men of ſenſe down to them; for it is certain, that when a company is thus gorged, glutted, and loaded, there is not the leaſt difference between the moſt ſtupid and the wittieſt man in it.

What life in all that ample body, ſay
What heavenly particle inſpires the clay?
The ſoul ſubſides, and wickedly inclines
To ſeem but mortal even in ſound divines. POPE.

Though an exceſs in wine is highly blameable, it is ſurely much more pardonable, as the progreſſive

ſteps

ſteps to it are chearful, animating, and ſeducing: the melancholy are for a while relieved, the grave are enlivened, and the witty and the gay ſeem almoſt inſpired; whereas in eating, after nature is once ſatisfied, which ſhe ſoon is, every additional morſel carries dulneſs and ſtupidity along with it.

Moreover, theſe glorious toils are crowned with the juſt rewards of all chronical diſtempers; the gout, the ſtone, the ſcurvy, and the palſy, are the never-failing trophies of their atchievements. Were theſe honors, like ſimple knighthood, only to be enjoyed by thoſe who had merited them, it would be no great matter; but unfortunately, like baronetſhip, they deſcend to and viſit their innocent children. It is already very eaſy to diſtinguiſh at ſight the puny ſon of a compound *entremets*, from the luſty offſpring of beef and pudding: and, I am perſuaded, the next generation of the nobility will be a race of pale-faced, ſpindle-ſhanked Lilliputians, the moſt vigorous of whom will not come up to an abortion of John de Gaunt's. Nor does the miſchief even ſtop here; for, as the men of faſhion frequently condeſcend to communicate themſelves to families of inferior rank, but better conſtitutions, they enervate thoſe families too, and preſent them with ſickly helpleſs children, to the great prejudice of the trade and manufactures of this kingdom.

Some people have imagined, and not without ſome degree of probability, that animal food communicates its qualities with its nouriſhment. In this ſuppoſition it was, that Achilles, who was not only born and bred, but fed up too, for a Hero, was nouriſhed with the

the marrow of lions; and we all know what a fine lion he turned out at last. Should this rule hold, it must be a melancholy reflection to consider, that the principal ingredients in the food of our principal nobility is essence of swine.

The Egyptians, who were a wise nation, thought so much depended upon diet, that they dieted their kings, and prescribed by law both the quality and quantity of their food. It is much to be lamented, that those bills of fare are not preserved to this time, since they might have been of singular use in all monarchical governments; but it is reasonable to be conjectured, from the wisdom of that people, that they allowed their kings no aliments of a bilious or a choleric nature, and only such as sweetened their juices, cooled their blood, and enlivened their faculties, if they had any.

The common people of this kingdom are dieted by laws; for, by an act passed about two years ago, not less advantageous to the crown than to the people, the use of a liquor, which destroyed both their minds and their bodies, was wisely prohibited, and, by repeated acts of parliament, their food is reduced to a very modest and wholesome proportion. Surely then the nobility and gentry of the kingdom deserve some attention too, not so much indeed for their own sakes, as for the sake of the public, which is in some measure under their care: for if a porter, when full of gin, could not do his business, I am apt to think a privy counsellor, when loaded with four courses, will but bungle at his.

Suppose,

Suppoſe, for inſtance, a number of perſons, not over-lively at beſt, ſhould meet of an evening to concert and deliberate upon public meaſures of the utmoſt conſequence, grunting under the load and repletion of the ſtrongeſt meats, panting almoſt in vain for breath, but quite in vain for thought, and reminded only of their exiſtence by the unſavory returns of an olio; what good could be expected from ſuch a conſultation? The beſt one could hope for would be, that they were only aſſembled for ſhew, and not for uſe; not to propoſe or adviſe, but ſilently to ſubmit to the orders of ſome one man there, who, feeding like a rational creature, might have the uſe of his underſtanding.

I would therefore recommend it to the conſideration of the legiſlature, whether it may not be neceſſary to paſs an act, to reſtrain the licentiouſneſs of eating, and aſſign certain diets to certain ranks and ſtations. I would humbly ſuggeſt the ſtrict vegetable as the propereſt miniſterial diet, being exceedingly tender of thoſe faculties in which the public is ſo highly intereſted, and very unwilling they ſhould be clogged or incumbered.

But I do moſt ſeriouſly recommend it to thoſe who, from their rank and ſituation in life, ſettle the faſhions, and whoſe examples will in theſe ſorts of things always be followed, that they will by their example, which will be more effectual than any law, not only put a ſtop to, but reform, the ridiculous, expenſive, and pernicious luxury of tables; they are the people whom all inferior ranks imitate as far as they are able, and commonly much farther. It is their fatal

example

example that has seduced the gentry, and people of smaller fortune, into this nasty and ruinous excess. Let their example then at last reclaim them; let those who are able to bear the expence, and known not to grudge it, give the first blow to this extravagant folly; let them avow their own natural taste, for nature is in every thing plain and simple, and gratify it decently at a frugal and wholesome table, instead of purchasing stupidity and distempers at the expence of their time and their estates. And they may depend upon it, that a fashion so convenient, as to the fortunes and the constitutions of their fellow-subjects, will chearfully be followed, and universally prevail, to the great advantage of the public.

XVII.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, March 4, 1738. N° 57.

I TOOK my leave some time ago of the daily silly Gazetteers, and promised to take no further notice of them; but then I only promised that impunity to their folly and absurdity. Now, whether they understood that amnesty to extend farther than I meant it, or whether, with the last three or four shillings paid them by Mr. Pounce with a P, they likewise received orders to be saucy and impertinent, I cannot tell; but, be that as it will, they have of late been so impudently personal upon one worthy

gentleman *, that I cannot help ſtepping a little out of my way, to give them a kick: nor is this the greateſt provocation they have given me; for, notwithſtanding the regard I have for the character of that young gentleman, with whom they are ſo free, I am more incenſed againſt them for diſturbing the aſhes of the dead, and for preſuming, as they do, to touch Cicero with their impure and unhallowed hands. I therefore begin, by abſolutely forbidding them even to mention, directly or indirectly, the name of Cicero, till they have firſt read and underſtood him in the original; which, as I take it, amounts to a perpetual prohibition.

I have ſo much charity for the poor devils, as to believe they would not write at all, if they could help it, and that they would write better if they could. I never looked upon their daily labors as voluntary, but conſidered them as the production of heads and ſtomachs equally empty, and I really took in their papers out of charity, for, as to any other uſe I make of them, I might be ſupplied cheaper; but I muſt tell them that, if they grow perſonally ſcurrilous, I ſhall withdraw my charity, and common ſenſe ſhall purſue them, though indeed I fear it will never overtake them.

By what I can underſtand of their papers, they ſeem to have a great diſlike to a certain young gentleman, whom they have ſometimes almoſt called by his own name, and of late by a hard Latin name. I

* Mr. afterwards lord Lyttelton, who had been moſt groſsly abuſed, both in doggrel verſe, and in dull proſe, by the authors of the Gazetteer.

confeſs

confeſs it is very natural they ſhould diſlike him, nor am I in the leaſt ſurprized that he ſhould be the object of their ſatire, when I conſider the uſeful ſubjects of their panegyrics; but then I muſt intimate to them, that they proceed very injudiciouſly, and do him a ſervice which they little intended. Would they hurt him, they ſhould commend him, for they are very ſure that nobody will take their words for any thing; but when ſuch wretched advocates, and profligate panegyriſts of corruption, oppreſſion, fraud, and all political immorality, direct their ſatire at one man, it is marking him out to the public, as a perſon eminently diſtinguiſhed by all the oppoſites of thoſe vices. The execution too of their deſign is as injudicious, as the deſign itſelf. They, ſomewhere or other, had an imperfect account of one Cicero, who had no mind that one Cæcilius, a young man, ſhould be the proſecutor of one Verres, an old rogue; and that this ſame Cicero had told this Cæcilius, that he was too vain and enterprizing for ſo young a man, and wholly unequal to the taſk he undertook. This they thought was a pure ſcrap of hiſtory for them, and reſolved to apply it immediately; when behold the misfortune that always attends ignorance and preſumption! all the particular circumſtances of that affair made againſt them, and ſuggeſted ugly applications elſewhere. When I ſaw that they made this young gentleman Cæcilius, I was really afraid for them, and went on with impatience to ſee whom they would make Verres: but I perceived they had prudently avoided this danger, and wiſely, as they thought, dubbed their patron Hortenſius, who was a

great lover of pictures and ſtatues, was bribed by a ſphynx of curious workmanſhip and of ineſtimable value, to appear as the advocate of the moſt flagitious fellow, and the moſt infamous cauſe, that Rome ever knew. He proſtituted his eloquence to the defence of peculation and corruption, and, by ſkreening the moſt infamous of men, became little leſs ſo himſelf. This circumſtance is an unlucky one; I leave it with them to conſider of.

As to their Cæcilius himſelf, it is well known to every body but them, that he was a ſham proſecutor, ſet on by Verres himſelf, to prevent a real one. He had been a ſharer both of his plunder and of his guilt, and, upon a pretended concerted quarrel between them, offered himſelf as the propereſt perſon to proſecute this affair; but Cicero, who was in earneſt, and determined that juſtice ſhould be done upon ſo notorious an offender, diſcovered and defeated this ſtratagem, obtained the management of the cauſe, puſhed it with vigor and abilities, and got the criminal condemned. Was the character of Cæcilius really applicable to this young gentleman, were there any hopes that he could ever be brought to ſkreen the moſt notorious corruption, I dare ſay, he would meet with the approbation, inſtead of the cenſure, of this virtuous ſociety; and I am apt to think, that it is his unlikeneſs to Cæcilius, and his reſemblance to Tully, which have drawn their indignation upon him.

A late very ingenious author has moſt judiciouſly obſerved, in his incomparable and ſhort eſſay towards a character, &c. that pictures ought to be like the

persons they are drawn for, nay so like, as to be known by their acquaintance: but these wretched rogues are conscious they are such bad painters, that, under the signs they daub, they always write the name. It is sometimes a certain young gentleman, who is tall and lean; at other times it is one, who was cofferer about seventeen years ago; and indeed if it was not for these helps, I, who am their only reader, should be at a great loss to know whom they mean.

I have often wondered what sort of fellows this ingenious society was composed of; for, that their paper is a mosaic work of folly is evident; and I imagine it consists of a parcel of poor devils, who have either failed in their several trades, or who had never parts enough to be bound out, assisted sometimes by what they call *an able hand*, such as a mungrel lawyer, a tattered reverend, or a facetious clerk of an office; who, by sending them a paper now and then, get them a holiday from their daily drudgery; and here I cannot help condoling with them for the irreparable loss they have lately sustained, by the untimely and violent death of Mr. Carr *, who, I am told, was reckoned their top hand: so far is certain, that the under-sheriff, to whom that unhappy author gave his papers, was so struck with the similitude of style between them and the Daily Gazetteers, that he was heard to say, however justly Mr. Carr might have suffered, the administration would still have a great loss of him.

* He was an attorney, and was concerned in a considerable robbery; for which he was tried, cast, and executed.

As

As to those of his fraternity, who still survive and write, I have no more time to lose upon them, than just to say, that when they answer this, if they are ordered so to do, I absolutely bar their supposing it to be written by the gentleman himself, whom it is designed to vindicate. This they have often practised, and seem to think it very cunning, whereas it cannot possibly pass on any mortal; for there is not, certainly, more than one man in the kingdom, whose condition is so bad, that he could not find a friend to write in defence of him, when attacked, without being paid for it.

Having said thus much to these miserable journeymen, whom the world and I equally despise, I will just drop one word to their paymaster, whoever he may be; which is, that if he either encourages or suffers these scurrilities upon the private concerns and characters of others, who have always scorned to attack him out of his public character, let him strictly examine himself, and his own circumstances, and consider whether ample returns may not be made him by better pens, and with more truth, than ever were or will be employed on his side.

XVIII.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Oct. 14, 1738. N° 89.

SUCH is the uncertainty and unstability of the things of this world, that there is scarce any event which ought to surprise us, or any thing new

to be ſaid upon it. The greateſt empires, and beſt-modeled governments, have been ſuddenly overturned by unexpected occurrences of unlucky and unforeſeen accidents. Notwithſtanding which, when one ſees great and ſudden revolutions happen, one cannot help falling into trite obſervations, which a thouſand events of the ſame kind had ſuggeſted to thouſands of people before.

I confeſs this happened to me lately, when I heard that operas were no more, and that too at a time when the vigor and ſucceſs, with which a ſubſcription was carried on, both by the great and the fair, ſeemed to promiſe them in their fulleſt luſtre. "Shall the "kings and the miniſters of the earth, cried I, be "ſurprized when their beſt-concerted ſchemes are de-"feated; ſchemes which it is generally the common "intereſt of mankind to defeat? and muſt we be-"hold, unmoved, the fatal cataſtrophe of that great "deſign, which the common pleaſures of mankind "ſeemed engaged to ſupport?" Many other reflections occurred to me, which, though I thought new at the time, I am ſince perſuaded were made by the Aſſyrians, the Medes, the Perſians, and others, upon the ſubverſion of their ſeveral empires; and therefore I ſhall not trouble my readers with them.

But I came at laſt to conſider, as I always do, how far, and in what manner, this great event might poſſibly affect the public, and whether the ceſſation of operas would prove a national loſs, or a national advantage: for public diverſions are by no means things indifferent; they give a right or a wrong turn to the minds of the people, and the wiſeſt governments

ments in the world, I mean, to be ſure, our own, thought ſo not above two years ago, and prudently ſubjected all our public entertainments to the wiſdom and care of the lord chamberlain, his licenſer, or his licenſer's deputy-licenſer.

Was I to follow the examples of the greateſt hiſtorians, I ſhould ſearch into, and aſſign, the cauſes of this revolution, and might poſſibly affirm, with more certainty than they commonly do, that the unſkilfulneſs of the compoſers, the immoderate profit of the performers, the partialities of the governors, and the influence of foreign miſtreſſes, naturally produced this event. But I wave, at preſent, theſe reflections, in order to conſider the effects of muſic in general.

Muſic was held in great eſteem among the antients, particularly the Greeks, who looked upon it as the neceſſary part of the education of their youth, and thought the due regulation of it worthy the care of their laws; inſomuch, that Timotheus was condemned by a decree of the Lacedæmonians, for introducing innovations in their muſic, and corrupting the true eſtabliſhed taſte. Which decree Boëtius has preſerved to us in the original. It ſays, that Timotheus of Miletum, being come into their town, had ſhewn great diſregard to the antient muſic, and the antient lyre, that he had multiplied the ſounds of one, and the ſtrings of the other; and that, inſtead of the plain, expreſſive manner of ſinging, he had invented a fantaſtical new one, where he had introduced the chromatic, &c. He was therefore publicly reprimanded by the ephori, and his lyre was ordered to be altered.

This is not to be wondered at, considering the astonishing effects which the best historians assure us music had in those days, and of which I shall give some instances.

The Pyrrhic tune, as is well known, had such a martial influence, that, in a very little time, it set the audience a fighting, whether they would or not. This tune, by the way, must have infinitely exceeded our best modern marches, which, by what I have been able to observe in Hyde-Park, rather sets our army a dancing than a fighting. I ascribe this difference wholly to the unskilfulness of our modern composers; for I will never believe that my countrymen have not as much potential courage in them as the Greeks, if properly excited. I therefore wish the Pyrrhic tune had been transmitted down to us, to have been used in proper places, and upon proper occasions.

The Phrygian music inclined as much to love; and Quintilian tells us, that Pythagoras, having observed a young man so inflamed by this Phrygian modulation, that he was going to offer violence to a lady of condition, immediately ordered the instruments to play in a graver measure, called the spondee, which instantly checked the gallant's desires, and saved the lady's chastity. A strong instance this of the force of music, and the sagacity of the philosopher! though by the way, if that Phrygian movement had the same effect upon the lady, which it had upon the gentleman, the philosopher's interposition might possibly be but unwelcome. Our operas have not been known to occasion any attempts of this violent nature; which I likewise impute to the effects

fects of the compoſition, and not to any degree of inſenſibility or modeſty in our youth, and who, it muſt be owned, give a fair hearing to muſic, and whoſe ſhort bobs ſeem admirably contrived for the better reception of ſounds.

Dion Chryſoſtomus informs us, that the muſician Timotheus, playing one day upon the flute before Alexander the Great, in the movement called Ortios, that prince immediately laid hold of his great ſword, and was with difficulty hindered from doing miſchief, reſtrained, no doubt, by ſome prudent and pacific miniſter. And Mr. Dryden, in his celebrated ode upon St. Cecilia's day, repreſents that hero alternately affected, in the higheſt degree, by tender or martial ſounds, now languiſhing in the arms of his courtezan, Thaïs, and anon furious, ſnatching a flambeau, and ſetting fire to the town of Perſepolis. This we have lately heard, ſet to muſic by the great Mr. Handel, who, for a modern, certainly excels in the Ortios, or warlike meaſure. But we have ſome reaſon to think that the impreſſions, which it was obſerved to make upon the audience, ſoon gave way to the Phrygian or laſcivious movement.

I am apt to believe that in muſic, as in many other arts and ſciences, we fall infinitely ſhort of the antients. For I take it for granted, that we ſhould be open to the ſame impreſſions, if our compoſers had but the ſkill to make them. However, though muſic does not now cauſe thoſe ſurprizing effects which it did formerly, it ſtill retains power enough over men's paſſions to make it worth our care: and I heard ſome perſons, equally ſkilled in muſic and

politics, assert, that king James was sung and fiddled out of this kingdom by the protestant tune of Lilly-bullero; and that somebody else would have been fiddled into it again, if a certain treasonable Jacobite tune had not been timely silenced by the unwearied pains and diligence of the administration.

The bag-pipe, I am credibly informed, has been known to have a wonderful effect upon our countrymen the North Britons, and to influence whole clans; which I am the more inclined to believe, because I have really seen it do strange things here.

The Swiss, who are not a people of the quickest sensations, have at this time a tune, which, when played upon their fifes, inspires them with such a love of their country, that they run home as fast as they can: which tune is therefore, under severe penalties, forbid to be played, when their regiments are on service, because they would instantly desert. Could such a tune be composed here, it would then be worth the nation's while to pay the piper; and one could easily suggest the proper places for the performance of it: for instance, it might be of great use, at the opening of certain assemblies, where prayers have already proved ineffectual; and the serjeant at arms and the gentleman usher of the black-rod should be instructed to play it in perfection. The band of court music would of course execute it incomparably, where it would doubtless have all the effect which could be expected. I would therefore most earnestly recommend it to the learned doctor Green, to turn his thoughts that way. It is not from the least distrust of Mr. Handel's ability, that I address myself preferably

preferably to doctor Green: but Mr. Handel, having the advantage to be by birth a German, might probably, even without intending it, mix some modulations in his composition, which might give a German tendency to the mind, and therefore greatly lessen the national benefit I propose by it.

How far the polite part of the world is affected by the cessation of operas, I am no judge myself; but I asked a young gentleman of wit and pleasure about town, whether he did not apprehend that he should be a sufferer by it in his way of business, for that I presumed those soft and tender sounds soothed and melted the fairest breasts, and fitted them to receive impressions? He answered me very frankly, that, as far as he could judge, the loss would be but inconsiderable to their profession; that some years ago, indeed, the taste of music, being expressive and pathetic, had inspired tender sentiments, and softened stubborn virtue; but the fashion being of late for both the composers and the performers only to shew what tricks they could play, had rather taught the ladies to play tricks too, than made the proper impressions upon them, and that he oftener found them tired than softened at the end of an opera. But he confessed that they might happen to miss the opera books a little, because, as most of his profession could make a shift to read the English version at least, they found, in those incomparable dramas, sentiments proper for all situations, which might not otherwise have occurred to them, and which, by emphatical signs and looks, they could apply to the proper objects; insomuch that he had often known very

pretty

pretty ſentimental converſations carried on through a whole opera by theſe references to the book.

Having thus ſhewn the power and effects of muſic, both among the antients and the moderns, and the good and ill uſes which may be made of it, I ſhall ſubmit it to perſons wiſer than myſelf, what is to be done in this important criſis. I look upon operas to have been the great national eſtabliſhment of muſic, and I am perſuaded that innumerable ſects will riſe from their ruins, and break into various conventicles of vocal and inſtrumental, which, if not attended to, may prove of ill conſequence. But in this, as in every thing elſe, I put my truſt in the wiſdom of the miniſters, who daily ſhew that nothing is above their ſkill, or below their care. Kingdoms and gin-ſellers tremble at their fleets, and their informers. Terrible abroad, and lovely at home, they put me always in mind of that beautiful deſcription, which Taſſo gives of one of his heroes:

Se'l vedi folminar, fra l'arme, au volto
Marte le ſtimi; Amor ſe ſcopre il volto.

If you were to ſee him, ſays he, glittering in his armour, and in all the thunder of war, you would take him for Mars, the god of it; but when that is over, and he lays by his helmet, you would think him the god of love.

XIX.

XIX.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Nov. 11, 1738. N° 93.

EVERY age has its fashionable follies, as well as its fashionable vices: but, as follies are more numerous than vices, they change oftener, and every four or five years produce a new one. I will indulge my fellow-subjects in the full enjoyment of such follies, as are inoffensive in themselves, and in their consequences. Men, as well as children, must have their play-things: but when *hæ nugæ seria ducunt in mala* (these trifles lead on to real evils), I shall take the liberty to interpose, represent, and censure.

Fashion, which is always at first the offspring of little minds, and the child of levity, gains strength and support by the great number of its relations, till at length it is received and adopted by better understandings, who either conform to it to avoid singularity, or who are surprized into it, from want of attention to an object which they look upon as indifferent in itself, and so dignify and establish the folly.

This is the case of a present prevailing extravagancy, I mean the absurd and ridiculous imitation of the French, which is now become the epidemical distemper of this kingdom: not confined to those only from whom one expects no better, but it has even infected those whom one should have thought much

much above such weaknesses; and I behold with indignation the sturdy conquerors of France shrunk and dwindled into the imperfect mimics, or ridiculous *caricaturas*, of all its levity. The *travesty* is universal; poor England produces nothing fit to eat, or drink, or wear. Our cloaths, our furniture, nay our food too, all is to come from France; and I am credibly informed, that a poulterer at Calais now actually supplies our polite tables with half their provisions.

I do not mean to undervalue the French; I know their merit, they are a chearful, industrious, ingenious, polite people, and have many things in which I wish we did imitate them. But, like true mimics, we only ape their imperfections, and awkwardly copy those parts which all reasonable Frenchmen themselves contemn in the originals.

If this folly went no farther than disguising both our meats and ourselves in the French modes, I should bear it with more patience, and content myself with representing only to my country folks, that the one would make them sick, and the other ridiculous: but when even the materials for the folly are to be brought over from France too, it becomes a much more serious consideration. Our trade and manufactures are at stake, and what seems at first only very silly, is in truth a great national evil, and a piece of civil immorality.

There is surely some obedience due to the laws of the land, which strictly prohibit the importation of these fooleries, and, independently of those laws, there is a strong obligation upon every member of

a society

a ſociety from which he himſelf receives ſo many advantages: theſe are moral duties, if I know what moral duties are, but I preſume they are awkward ones, and not fit to reſtrain the unbounded fancy of fine gentlemen and fine ladies, in their dreſs and manner of living; and it is, certainly, much more reaſonable, that our trade ſhould decay, and our manufactures ſtarve, than that people of taſte and condition ſhould content themſelves with the wretched produce of their own country.

Methinks there is ſomething very mean in being ſuch avowed plagiaries, and I wonder the Britiſh ſpirit will ſubmit to it. Why will our countrymen thus diſtruſt themſelves? Let them exert their own genius and invention, and I make no doubt but they will be able to produce as many original extravagances, as all the marſhals of France can do. How much more glorious would it be for thoſe ladies who eſtabliſh the faſhion here, to conſider at the ſame time their own dignity, and the public good! Let them not ſervilely copy or tranſlate French edicts, but let them enact original laws of their own. I look upon the birth-day cloaths of a fine woman to be the ſtatute of dreſs for that year: and, by the way, the only ſtatute which is complied with. I therefore humbly intreat, that it may be enacted in Engliſh. Seriouſly, if three or four ladies, at the head of the faſhion, would but value themſelves upon being cloathed entirely with the manufactures of their own country, and from the plenitude of their own power pronounce all foreign manufactures ungenteel, awkward, and frippery, the

legions,

legions, who dreſs under their banner, would ſoon be as much aſhamed of dreſſing againſt their country, as they are now of being thought even natives of it. This would be moreover the real imitation of the French, who like nothing but their own.

What I have ſaid with relation to my fair countrywomen holds equally true as to my fine countrymen, to whom I cannot help hinting, over and above, that they make very ridiculous Frenchmen, and might be very valuable Engliſhmen. Every nation has its diſtinguiſhing mark and characteriſtic. If we have a ſolidity which the French have not, they moſt certainly have an elaſticity which we have not; and the imitation is equally awkward. Horace juſtly calls imitators *ſervum pecus* (ſlaviſh cattle); and, to do him juſtice, he is himſelf an original. If my countrymen would be thought converſant with Horace, as they moſt of them would be, I am ſure they will find in him no inſtance of foppery, luxury, or profuſion.

We have heard with ſatisfaction that ſome conſiderable perſons in this kingdom, from a juſt and becoming concern for our diſtreſſed tradeſmen and manufacturers, diſcountenance, as far as poſſible, this pernicious folly. And though I make no doubt but, at the end of this long mourning, by which trade has ſuffered ſo immenſely, ſome meaſures will be taken to this effect elſewhere, this would be the moſt likely way of eradicating the evil, and as it is by no means unprecedented to annex certain conditions to the honor and privilege of ſubjects appearing in the preſence of their ſovereign, ſurely none

can be juſter nor more reaſonable than that they ſhould contribute to the good of their country.

But the miſchief does not ſtop here neither; for now we are not content with receiving our faſhions and the materials for them from France, but we even export ourſelves in order to import them. The matter, it ſeems, is of too great conſequence to truſt to hear-ſay evidence for; but we muſt go ourſelves to view thoſe great originals, be able to ſay, of our own knowledge, how ſuch a glutton eats, and how ſuch a fool dreſſes, and return loaded with the prohibited tinſel and frippery of the *palais* *. Half the private families in England take a trip, as they call it, every ſummer to Paris; and I am aſſured, that near four hundred thouſand pounds have been remitted thither in one year, to ſupply this extravagancy. Should this rage continue, the act of parliament, propoſed in one of Mr. Congreve's comedies, to prohibit the exportation of fools, will in reality become neceſſary. Travelling is, unqueſtionably, a very proper part of the education of our youth; and, like our bullion, I would allow them to be exported. But people of a certain age beyond refining, and once ſtamped here, like our coin, ſhould be confined within the kingdom. The impreſſions they have received make them current here, but obſtruct their currency any where elſe, and they only return diſ-

* The place where the courts of juſtice and parliament are held at Paris, anſwering to Weſtminſter-hall. Milliners and toymen are allowed to have ſhops and ſtalls; and know how to diſpoſe of their trinkets to young lawyers, foreigners, and other perſons, whom curioſity or idleneſs draws to this place.

guiſed,

guiſed, defaced, and probably much leſſened in the weight.

The ſober and well-regulated family of a country gentleman is a very valuable part of the community; they keep up good neighbourhood by decent hoſpitality, they promote good manners by their example, and encourage labor and induſtry by their conſumption. But when once they run French, if I may uſe the expreſſion, and are to be poliſhed by this trip to Paris, I will venture to aſſure them, that they may, from that day, date their being ridiculous for ever afterwards. They are laughed at in France, for not being like the French; they are laughed at here, for endeavouring to be like them; and, what is worſe, their mimicking their luxury brings them into their neceſſity, which ends in a moſt compleat imitation indeed, of their mean and ſervile dependance upon the court.

I could point out to theſe itinerant ſpirits a much ſhorter, leſs expenſive, and more effectual method of travelling and frenchifying themſelves; which is, if they would but travel to *Old Soho*, and ſtay two or three months in *le quartier des Grecs* *; lodgings and *legumes* are very cheap there, and the people very civil to ſtrangers. There too they might poſſibly get acquainted with ſome French people, which they never do at Paris, and, it may be, learn a little French, which they never do in France neither: and

* The place where moſt of the deſcendants of the French refugees then lived. Their chapel, in which divine ſervice was, and ſtill continues to be, performed, according to the rites of the church of England, had formerly belonged to a congregation of Greeks, and has given its name to all the *environs* of Soho ſquare.

I appeal

I appeal to any one, who has seen those venerable personages of both sexes, of the refugees, if they are not infinitely more genteel, easier, and better dressed in the French manner, than any of their modern English mimics.

As for our fair countrywomen in particular, they are so valuable, so beautiful a part of our own produce, and in which we so eminently excel all other nations, that I can by no means allow of their exportation: they are surely, if I may say so, much more valuable commodities than wool or fuller's-earth, the exportation of which is so strictly prohibited by our laws, lest foreigners should have the manufacturing of them; which reasoning holds stronger, upon many accounts, in this case, than in the two others.

Let it not be urged, that the loss arising from these follies is but a trifling object with relation to our trade in general. This, for aught I know, might have been true some years ago: but such is the present unhappy state of our trade, that I doubt no object is now a trifling one, or below the attention of every individual. After six and twenty years peace, we labor under every one of the taxes which subsisted at the conclusion of the last expensive war, without reckoning some new ones laid on since; while other nations, gradually eased of that burthen, under-work and under-sell us in every foreign market. The last valuable part of our trade, how has it been attacked for these many years! and how has it been protected! It would be unreasonable to expect that the administration, ingrossed by much greater cares, should attend to so trifling a consideration as trade;

nor can one wonder that it has intirely escaped the attention of parliaments, when one considers, that so many affairs of a much higher nature have, of late, so advantageously employed them. But it therefore becomes more peculiarly the care of every individual; and if, from the reformation only of those follies here mentioned, five or six hundred thousand pounds a year may be saved to the nation, which I am convinced is the case, how incumbent is it upon every one to sacrifice a little private folly to so much public good! It may at least be a reprieve to our trade and manufactures from that ruin which, at best, seems to be too near them; and possibly too the examples of some private people may, at least, shame others, whose more immediate care it ought to be, into some degree of attention to what they have so long seemed to neglect and despise.

XX.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, Jan. 27, 1739. N° 103.

SIR,

I HAVE lately read, with the greatest satisfaction, the account, printed in our public papers, of the signal victory obtained by his majesty's Hanoverian troops over the Danes *, notwithstanding the great inequality

* A more serious account of this transaction, which occasioned a long paper war, and was terminated in 1740, by a treaty with the king

inequality of the numbers, the Danes being at leaſt thirty, and the Hanoverians at moſt five hundred men; the Danes having moreover the important fortreſs of Steinhorſt to protect, and the counſels of counſellor Wedderkop to direct them.

As the beſt account of this great action is in the Daily Gazetteer of the 25th of December laſt, which nobody reads, I will, for the ſatisfaction of the curious, tranſcribe it from thence.

"Hanover, December the 12th, O. S. On the "4th inſtant a detachment of Hanoverians, conſiſt- "ing of five hundred men, with two field-pieces, "marched to take poſſeſſion of the territory of Stein- "horſt, which belongs to the privy counſellor Wed- "derkop, wherein were poſted thirty dragoons in "the ſervice of the king of Denmark. The colonel "who commanded the detachment no ſooner arrived, "but he ſent a lieutenant to the Daniſh captain in "the caſtle, to acquaint him, that he was come with "orders to take poſſeſſion of it, and, if he refuſed, "to turn him out by force. The Daniſh captain "having anſwered the lieutenant, that he was com- "manded to repel force by force, the two officers "had ſuch high words, that they drew their ſwords "and fought a duel, in which the Daniſh captain "was killed on the ſpot, and the lieutenant mortally "wounded. The Hanoverian colonel having ad- "vanced with his troops in the *interim*, to begin the "attack, a very ſmart ſkirmiſh enſued, wherein ſe-

king of Denmark, is given in the *Farther Vindication of the caſe of the Hanover Troops*, written by lord Cheſterfield and Mr. Waller.

"veral ſoldiers were killed on both ſides. The "Danes then drew up their draw-bridges, and re- "tired into the caſtle, where they defended them- "ſelves a while; but the Hanoverians having, by "the means of great hooks, plucked down the "bridges, they entered the caſtle and took poſſeſſion "of it, by virtue of an inſtrument drawn up by a "lawyer, and a ſcrivener, whom they had ſent for "from Hamburg for that purpoſe."

This action is, in my mind, as great an inſtance of prudence, generoſity, magnanimity, and moderation, as any we read of in antiquity. Conſidering the ſtrength of the caſtle and the number of the garriſon, it was certainly prudent to ſend no leſs than five hundred men to attack it. The colonel ſhews his generoſity, in the firſt place, by ſending a very civil meſſage to the commanding officer, to let him know he was come to take poſſeſſion of the caſtle, and to turn him out by force; and then the ardor of his courage, by not ſtaying for an anſwer, but beginning the attack in the *interim*. After he had poſſeſſed himſelf of the fortreſs by his hooks, and other warlike inſtruments, he declines the right of conqueſt, which he might undoubtedly have inſiſted upon, but quiets the poſſeſſion, by virtue of an inſtrument prepared by a lawyer and ſcrivener, whom he had ſent for from Hamburg for that purpoſe.

This important fortreſs, together with the eſtate about it, I am aſſured, is worth, as to the *dominium utile*, no leſs than a thouſand pounds a year, and inеſtimable, as to the *dominium ſupremum*, as it is a

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check to the northern powers: but, the title being pretty intricate and doubtful, his majesty bought it a pennyworth of the duke of Holstein, the last time he visited his German dominions, paying, I think, no more than thirty thousand pounds for it.

I have met with some timorous people, who apprehend ill consequences from this affair. The king of Denmark, say they, incensed at this treatment, will certainly throw himself into the arms of France, which has, for some time, been endeavouring to engage him, as well as other northern powers, provisionally in her interests, to facilitate her future schemes of power and greatness. Nay, more, say they, the king of Denmark may probably resent this upon Hanover itself, and march a considerable body of troops there; in which case, Hanover will cry out murther, call upon England for help, and we may be obliged to send more fleets to the Baltic, and be engaged in a war upon account of a disputed possession, too inconsiderable even for a law-suit. But those, who talk in this way, are but shallow politicians, and have not an adequate notion of the strength and importance of our foreign dominions, or of the goodness of those troops. On the contrary, it seems evident to me, that the king of Denmark will think twice before he engages in measures disagreeable to that state, whose strength, courage, and conduct, he has of late so sensibly experienced; but, should he take any rash and inconsiderate step, Hanover alone is more than a match for him, and England neither can nor will be engaged in that quarrel; and especially at a time that our expences and fleets are employed,

in obtaining ample reparation for our merchants, and future ſecurity for our trade, which, it may be, is not quite yet accompliſhed.

Upon this occaſion, give me leave, ſir, to ſuggeſt to you my thoughts upon the luſtre and advantage which England receives from being ſo happily annexed to his majeſty's German dominions, in anſwer to the vulgar prejudices too commonly entertained againſt them.

While England was unconnected with any dominions upon the continent, we had only our fleets to prevent and reſiſt inſults from other powers; whereas, by our happy union with Hanover, we have a body of above twenty thouſand men, moſt excellent troops, to act whenever we think proper, without the leaſt danger or expence to England, by which too particularly we bridle the north.

The dutchy of Bremen is of infinite advantage to England, as it ſupplies us with great quantities of linen, both for home conſumption, and re-exportation, to the great eaſe of our linen manufacturers, who would otherwiſe be obliged to make ten times the quantity they do now.

Hanover may be likewiſe of uſe to us by its example, ſince there cannot be a ſtronger inſtance of the advantages ariſing to a country, from a wiſe and frugal adminiſtration, than the great improvements of that electorate, under the ſucceſſive governments of his late and his preſent majeſty.

The whole revenues of the electorate, at the time of his late majeſty's acceſſion to the throne of theſe realms, did not amount to more than three hundred

thouſand

thouſand pounds a year; and yet ſoon afterwards the conſiderable purchaſe of Bremen and Verden were made for above five hundred thouſand pounds ſterling. Not long after this, the number of troops, in the electorate, was raiſed much above what it was before thought able to maintain, and has continued ever ſince upon that high eſtabliſhment.

Since his preſent majeſty's acceſſion to the electorate, ſeveral acquiſitions have alſo been made; and the very laſt time his majeſty viſited thoſe dominions, he bought in, at the price of above a hundred thouſand pounds, the revenues of the poſtage of the electorate, which was an hereditary grant to the counts of Platen: and in Auguſt laſt his majeſty concluded the purchaſe, and paid above thirty thouſand pounds for the fortreſs and eſtates of Steinhorſt. So that upon the whole, notwithſtanding that the expences for the current ſervice of the year equal, at leaſt, the revenue of the electorate, yet, by a prudent and frugal management, a million ſterling at leaſt has been laid out, over and above, in new acquiſitions.

If ſuch frugal means had been purſued, we ſhould have been in a better condition than we now are. I cannot help recommending to the adminiſtration, here, to follow the example of their German brethren, to have ſpirit enough to act, and frugality enough to put the nation in a condition of doing it.

I am ſir,

Your humble ſervant,

ANGLO-GERMANICUS.

XXI.

OLD ENGLAND,

Or the CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL;

By Jeffrey Broad-Bottom, of Covent-Garden, Esq; *,

SATURDAY, Feb. 5, 1743. N° 1.

IT has generally been the custom with our hebdomadal and diurnal authors to preface their works with an account of their birth, parentage, and education, the company they keep, and several other curious particulars relating to their own persons: but, as I am of opinion, that it is more proper for a writer to endeavour to recommend his business than his person to the public, I shall inform my reader of the one, and leave him to indulge the pleasure of conjecture as to the other.

We are told by critics, that definitions ought to be conceived in as plain, concise terms as possible. The world naturally expect that a public writer should, at

* The resignation of sir Robert Walpole was not attended with that total change of men and measures which had been expected. The Newcastle party kept their ground; and, by entering into a private negotiation with Mr. Pulteney and lord Carteret, succeeded in dividing the opposition. Very few of them were taken into the ministry; and lord Chesterfield, who, with several more, were excluded, highly complained of having been sacrificed by their friends, and lost no opportunity of expressing their resentment. This paper was undertaken with that view. It made a great deal of noise, and the supposed author and printer were taken into custody. Lord Chesterfield owned himself repeatedly to his chaplain, the present bishop of Waterford, author of the first number; and I think there can be no doubt but that the third came from the same hand.

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his outset, acquaint them with his principles, views, and motives of writing; therefore I intend, in compliance with this expectation, to acquaint my reader in very plain terms with those several particulars. This is fair; if he likes the definition of each, he will be curious to know the several propositions deduced from them, and perhaps be prevailed on to encourage the doctrine arising upon the whole: if, on the other hand, he should dislike them, there is but little harm done; he knows what he is to expect, and will hereafter save both himself and me the mortification of any farther interviews with one another.

All experience convinces me, that 90 men out of 100, when they talk of forming principles, mean no more than embracing parties; and, when they talk of supporting their party, mean serving their friends, and the service of their friends implies no more than consulting self-interest. By this gradation, principles are fitted to party, party degenerates into faction, and faction is reduced to self. For this reason, I openly declare that I think no honest man will implicitly embrace any party, so as to attach himself to the persons of those who form it. I am firmly of opinion, that, both in the last and present age, this nation might have been equally well served either by whigs or tories; and, if she was not, it was not because their principles were contrary to her interest, but because their conduct was inconsistent with their principles.

To extend this view a little farther, I am entirely persuaded that, in the words, *our present happy establishment*,

Bliſhment, the happineſs mentioned there is that of the ſubjects; and that, if the eſtabliſhment ſhould make the prince happy and the ſubjects otherwiſe, it would be very juſtly termed our preſent unhappy eſtabliſhment. I apprehend the nation did not think king James unworthy of the crown, merely that he might make way for the prince of Orange; nor can I conceive, that they ever precluded themſelves from dealing by king William in the ſame manner as they had done by king James, if he had done as much to deſerve ſuch a treatment. Neither can I in all my ſearch find, that, when the crown was ſettled in a hereditary line upon the preſent royal family, the people of Great Britain ever ſigned any formal inſtrument of recantation, by which they expreſſed their ſorrow and repentance of what they had done againſt king James, and proteſted that they would never do ſo by any future prince, though reduced to the ſame melancholy neceſſity. I farther think, the people ſettled the crown upon the family of Hanover, neither from any opinion which they entertained of infallibility in all the future princes which that illuſtrious houſe was to produce, nor from their being perſuaded that the crown of this kingdom, in right of blood, belonged to that houſe, but becauſe they thought that the government of thoſe princes bade faireſt to make themſelves happy. They thought, that princes of that houſe, having fewer connections with any intereſt upon the continent deſtructive to that of Great Britain, would be more independent, and leſs incumbered with any foreign concern, and conſequently more at liberty to act for the intereſt of this

this nation. From these considerations, as a subject of Great Britain, and as an honest man, I think myself bound, even in my individual capacity, to oppose all schemes destructive of those effects, which I, in my conscience, believe were the reasons that induced this free people to raise the head of the family of Hanover, from being the youngest elector in Germany, to be one of the most powerful princes in Europe. I think, that there can be no treason equal to that of a minister, who would advise his majesty to sacrifice his great concerns to his little ones; because, as I think his majesty's virtues have firmly riveted him in the hearts of his subjects, he is as sure of the crown of England as of the electorate of Hanover; and therefore every measure in favour of the latter, in prejudice of the former, is the blackest treason both against the king and the people.

Such are my principles with regard to the general system of our constitution and government; as to the particular propositions to be deduced from these principles, they will be the subject of after-disquisition.

I am next to account for the views of my writing. I had always observed, of the late very wicked ministers, that, though they did many infamous scandalous things, and put up with many gross affronts in favour of foreign considerations; yet, I will do them the justice to say it, the odium arising from their measures always fell upon their own persons; and whatever the secret springs of their conduct might have been, yet we never saw the safety and profit of Hanoverian dominions, made in parliament itself,

itſelf, the immediate, open, and avowed cauſe of ſacrificing the neareſt and the deareſt intereſts of this nation. Queſtions indeed were carried for Heſſian troops, for extravagant ſubſidies, for inconſiſtent treaties, and the like; but they never had the impudence, the inſolence, or the wickedneſs, to bring Hanover and Great Britain, as two parties, before the bar of their own corruption, and then to paſs a verdict, by which the latter was rendered a province to the former. It is againſt ſuch, as can be found wicked enough to do this, that this paper is undertaken; it is undertaken againſt thoſe who have found the ſecret of acquiring more infamy in ten months, than their predeceſſors, with all the pains they took, could acquire in twenty years. It is intended to vindicate the honor of the crown of Great Britain, and to aſſert the intereſt of her people againſt all foreign conſiderations; to keep up the ſpirit of virtuous oppoſition to wicked people; to point out the means of completing the great end of the revolution; and, in ſhort, to give the alarm upon any future attacks that may be made, either open or ſecret, of the government upon the conſtitution.

I am now to ſpeak of the motives for an undertaking of this kind: theſe are many, but ſome of them perhaps not quite ſo proper to be committed to the public. We have ſeen the noble fruits of a twenty years oppoſition blaſted by the connivance and treachery of a few, who, by all ties of gratitude and honor, ought to have cheriſhed and preſerved them to the people: but this diſappointment ought to be ſo far from diſcouraging, that it ſhould lend

ſpirit

ſpirit and life to a new oppoſition. The late one labored their point for a much longer term of years, and againſt many greater difficulties, than any oppoſition at preſent can be under any apprehenſions of encountering. They became a majority, from a minority of not above eighty-ſeven or eighty-eight in all; they fought againſt an experienced general and a national purſe; and the queſtions they oppoſed were more plauſible in their nature, and leſs dangerous in their conſequences, than any that have yet fallen within the ſyſtem of their blundering ſucceſſors. At preſent, the friends of their country, who have already declared themſelves, have advantages which their predeceſſors could never compaſs, even after twenty years hard labor.

I know, that the conduct of thoſe, who ſneaked, and abandoned their principles, upon the late change of miniſtry, is ſometimes made uſe of as an argument why all oppoſition muſt be fruitleſs, ſince all mankind, ſay they, employ it only as a means of their preferment, or the inſtrument of their revenge. This argument is in point of fact abſolutely falſe, and in point of reaſoning extremely inconcluſive. To prove it falſe in fact, I need but appeal to an underſtanding reader's own memory; let him recollect the characters of thoſe, who betrayed their party upon the late change, the light in which they ſtood with the public, and the eſtimation they held with their friends. Whoever ſhall take the pains to do this will own, that the part they acted could be no ſurprize upon the diſcerning part of mankind. In all parties and bodies of men, even leſs numerous than thoſe who formed

the

the late oppoſition, there have always been found, and it has been always underſtood there are, men, whoſe virtue is too weak to ſtand the firſt ſhock either of temptation or danger: when ſuch men give way, they leave a party ſtronger, becauſe its rottenneſs is removed.

They, who fell off upon the late turn, are of two ſorts; ſuch as were never ſuſpected of having virtue to reſiſt temptation, and ſuch as were never thought of conſequence enough to deſerve it. The ſurprize, therefore, is not that ſome fell, but that ſo many ſtood. But then how melancholy is the conſideration, when we reflect, that there is a poſſibility, that the great concerns of the nation both at home and abroad may, by ſuch an alteration of affairs, fall into the hands of thoſe who were either the reproach or ſcum of their party? What a proſpect muſt this nation have, if in the moſt deciſive conjuncture, as to the liberties of Europe, the management of foreign concerns ſhould fall into the hands of a perſon of the following character?

A man, who, when in the oppoſition, even his ſincerity could never beget confidence, nor his abilities eſteem; whoſe learning is unrewarded with knowledge, and his experience with wiſdom; diſcovering a haughtineſs of demeanour, without any dignity of character; and poſſeſſing the luſt of avarice, without knowing the right uſe of power and riches. His underſtanding blinded by his paſſions, his paſſions directed by his prejudices, and his prejudices ever hurrying into preſumption; impatient even of an equal, yet ever requiring the correction of a ſuperior.

Right as to general maxims, but wrong in the application; and therefore always so intoxicated by the prospect of success, that he never is cool enough to concert the proper measures to attain it.

Should a man, I say, of such a character as this, ever come to be at the head of foreign affairs, the nation must be in greater danger than it was in any time of the late administration, because her ruin will be more swift, disgraceful, and irretrievable. One might easily form a contrast to this character, and yet not deviate from a living resemblance. I could point out a person, without any other merit but the lowest species of prostitution, enjoying a considerable post, got by betraying his own party, without having abilities to be of use to any other: one, who had that plodding mechanical turn, which, with an opinion of his steadiness, was of service to the opposition, but can be of none to a ministry: one, whose talents were so low, that nothing but servile application could preserve him from universal contempt, and who, if he had persevered all his life in the interests of his country, might have had a chance of being remembered hereafter as a useful man. If there are such characters as those now existing, it is at least of some consolation to men of sense and virtue, that, if their inclinations lead them to views destructive of the interests and constitution of Great Britain, yet their abilities and reputation with all mankind are too mean for them to continue so long in power as to be able to copy the late minister in procuring a safe retreat for his crimes.

Having

Having ſaid thus much, I declare that this paper ſhall ceaſe as ſoon as the motives on which it is undertaken have ceaſed; but till then it ſhall be carried on with all the ſpirit which is conſiſtent with decency, law, and the principles of this conſtitution. While the writers in it keep to theſe, they are determined to fear no conſequences; becauſe nothing can ariſe ſo melancholy to their own private intereſt, as an attempt to cruſh the liberty of writing muſt be to thoſe of the public.

JEFFREY BROADBOTTOM.

XXII.

OLD ENGLAND,

Or the CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, February 19, 1743. N° 3.

I SCARCE know a more delicate and difficult ſituation, than that of an author at his firſt appearance in public. He preſents himſelf without introductor or credentials. He is his own ambaſſador, ſent by himſelf to ſpeak of himſelf and for himſelf; in which caſe it is almoſt impoſſible for him not to ſay either too little or too much. But the difficulties of a weekly author, or an author by retail, are ſtill greater, as they are perpetual; for even ſhould he get through his firſt audience with ſucceſs, and be graciouſly received, the leaſt ſlip in his ſubſequent conduct undoes the whole, and he is diſgraced. He

is bound over, as it were, from week to week, to his good behaviour, and a hundred thousand judges, not all of them learned or impartial as the twelve, are to determine whether he has forfeited his recognizances or not.

Aware of these dangers, I should not have encountered them, had not a full conviction of my own superior merit assured me that I was safe from them all. Armed with wit, judgment, erudition, and every other eminent qualification, I rush into the world, secure, like one of Homer's heroes, in armour given him by all the gods. I would not have said thus much of myself, for, I thank God, I am as free from vanity as ever any author was, and what I have said every author thinks, but that, as yet, I have nobody else to say it for me, and it was absolutely necessary that the public should not be ignorant of so important a truth. The first impression is often decisive; and the generality of mankind chuse to take an opinion ready-made, even from the party interested, rather than be at the trouble of forming one of their own. In a very little time, the unanimous voice of my readers will, I dare say, render any farther intimations of this kind unnecessary.

As I foresee that this paper will occasion many questions, I shall here give the answers beforehand to such of them as occur to me, that the curious may know what they have to expect for the future.

"What is this new paper, this constitutional jour-"nal?" says some solid politician, whose unerring judgment has never suffered him to stray out of the

beaten road of facts and dates. "Has it matter "and ſound reaſoning? or is it only a paper of wit "and fancy, for the amuſement of the frivolous? Is "it whig or tory; for, or againſt, the court? I will "know a little more of it before I take it in." To this I anſwer and engage, that it ſhall have the moſt material of matter, and the moſt reaſonable of reaſoning. As to whig and tory, I know no real diſtinction between them; I look upon them as two brothers, who, in truth, mean the ſame thing, though they purſue it differently; and therefore, as Martia did in the like caſe, I declare myſelf for neither, yet for both. As to for, or againſt, the court, I only anſwer it ſhall be conſtitutional, and directed with regard to the court as Trajan deſired his ſword might be, for him, or againſt him, as he deſerved it.

"Here is a new paper come out, I am told," ſays ſome vigorous miniſter. "It is treaſon to be ſure, "but is it treaſon within or without the law? can I "get at it? I do not like the title on it, eſpecially at "this time." With humble ſubmiſſion, I beg leave to aſſure his lordſhip, that I ſhall not write treaſon, becauſe I never think treaſon. This royal family has not a more faithful and loyal ſubject in the kingdom than myſelf; and if I may borrow an expreſſion I have long admired, it is under this royal family alone that I think we can live free, and that I hope we are determined to live free. His lordſhip ſhall moſt certainly never get at me, till it is criminal to be an Engliſhman; ſhould that ever happen, indeed, he may poſſibly have the ſatisfaction of condemning

demning me to a wheel-barrow in the mines of the Hartz *.

"This Jeffrey Broadbottom, this conſtitutional "journal, is certainly levelled at us," ſays a conſcious ſullen apoſtate patriot to his fallen brethren in the Pandæmonium. "It is ten to one, but it is written "by ſome of our old friends, and then we ſhall have "all our former ſpeeches, pamphlets, and declara-"tions, turned upon us, and our paſt conduct ſet "over againſt our preſent. I wiſh we could buy it "off; as ſoon as ever I can find out the author I "will, for I have ſome reaſon to be pretty ſure that "there is no man who is not to be bought;" and then

Grinn'd horribly a ghaſtly ſmile.

Pray why do you think my paper is levelled at you? has your expiring conſcience in its laſt words told you ſo? and has the ſame authority informed you that I am to be bought? You are miſtaken in both. You may happen, indeed, ſometimes to hitch in a paper, but you muſt be much more conſiderable than you are before you become the principal object of one; and you muſt ſtay till you are truſted with the diſpoſal of money, and till I love it as well as you do, two things which will never happen, ere you will be able to buy me.

"What is this new paper, this broad-bottom "Journal, I think they call it," ſays a fine woman in the genteel languor of her morning converſation with ſome fine gentleman of diſtinguiſhed taſte and politeneſs: "Is it like the Tatlers and Spectators? has

* Mines belonging to certain German dominions.

" it wit or humour? or is it only upon thoſe odious " politics that one hears of all day long? in ſhort, " will it do with one's tea in a morning?" " Not " with your tea," replies the fine gentleman, " but in- " comparably well with your ale, if you ever take " any; not that I have read it yet, but, to ſay the " truth, the title does not promiſe well. Jeffrey " Broadbottom and John Trott ſeem to be ſynony- " mous terms. I dare ſay, there is nothing of what " the French call *enjouement* in it; and I take it to " be a kind of heavy hot loaf, to ſtay the ſtomachs of " hungry politicians in a morning." Have a little patience with me, ye illuſtrious rulers of the *beau monde*, ye tremendous judges, whoſe deciſions are the final decrees of faſhion and taſte. I know your importance too well not to engage your favour if poſſible: though I ſhall be often, what you never are, ſerious, I ſhall be ſometimes, what you are always, trifling. My lazy and my idle hours ſhall be ſacred to the amuſement of yours; lighter ſubjects ſhall ſometimes engage your attention, and unbend mine; and the events of the polite world ſhall fill up the intervals of the buſy one.

The univerſal queſtion will be, who is the author, or ſuppoſed author, of this paper? To which if I do not give an anſwer at preſent, I muſt beg leave to be excuſed; being determined at preſent, to ſhine like phoſphorus in the dark, and ſcatter my light from the impenetrable receſs of my own cloſet. I will, for a time at leaſt, enjoy the ſenſible pleaſure of unſought and unſuſpected praiſe, and of hearing, wherever I go, my labors applauded, and ſeverally

aſcribed to the moſt eminent wits and politicians of the age; as they certainly will be, till I think proper to declare myſelf, and vindicate the glory due to me alone.

Having thus given not only an account, but ſome ſamples, of what the public may expect from me hereafter, I ſhall conclude this paper with a friendly and diſintereſted piece of advice to ſuch of my fellow-ſubjects as are deſirous of information, inſtruction, or entertainment. Secure my paper in time, for the demand will ſoon be too great to be complied with; and thoſe who take it in firſt ſhall, as in juſtice they ought, have the preference afterwards. Mr. Purſer, my printer, aſſures me it is impoſſible to print off above one hundred and ninety-three thouſand of theſe papers in a week; a very ſmall proportion to the number of thoſe who will be ſollicitous to read them: for reckoning the people of this kingdom at eight millions, and deducting half that number for young children, blind people, and men of quality, who either cannot or do not chuſe to read, there will remain four millions of reading ſouls, of whom three millions eight hundred and ſeven thouſand cannot have the ſatisfaction of reading this paper at the firſt hand, but muſt wait, with patience, for the future editions. I do not ſay this from any ſordid view of intereſt, which I am infinitely above; for I moſt ſolemnly proteſt that I deſire nothing for myſelf, and that the immenſe profits of this paper ſhall be all diſtributed among my friends, the printer, the publiſher, compoſitor, preſs-men, flys, and devils, without quartering myſelf upon any one of them, or requiring any thing from

them contrary to their former conduct, honor, or conscience.

JEFERY BROADBOTTOM.

XXIII.

THE WORLD*.

SATURDAY, May 3, 1753. N° 18.

THE following letter had appeared earlier in the world, if its length, or, what at present happens to be the same thing, its merit had not been so great. I have been trying to shorten it, without robbing it of its beauties; but, after many unsuccessful attempts, I find that the spirit of it is, as the human soul is imagined to be by some antient philosophers, *totus in toto, et totus in qualibet parte.* I have, there-

* This paper was set on foot by Mr. Moore, the ingenious author of the *Fables for the Female Sex*, and of the tragedy of the *Gamester*. He soon met with assistance from numerous correspondents, and, as he informs us in the dedication of one of his volumes to Soame Jenyns, esq; who was himself one of the writers in it, the *World* became *the only fashionable vehicle, in which men of rank and genius chose to convey their sentiments to the public.* Lord Chesterfield was one of these; but, as he sent his first paper to the publisher without any notice from whence it came, it underwent but a slight inspection, and was very near being excluded on account of its length. This neglect would have stopt any future communications; but fortunately lord Lyttelton happening to call at Mr. J. Dodsley's, this paper was shewn to him. He immediately knew the hand, and still more the manner of writing, of the noble author. Mr. Moore, being informed of this discovery, read the manuscript more attentively, discerned its beauties, and thought proper not only to publish it directly, but to introduce it with an apology for the delay, and a compliment to the author.

fore,

fore, changed the form of my paper, chuſing rather to preſent my readers with an extraordinary half-ſheet, than to keep from them any longer what was ſent me for their inſtruction. At the ſame time, I muſt beg leave to ſay, that I ſhall never think myſelf obliged to repeat my complaiſance, but to thoſe of my correſpondents, who, like the writer of this letter, can inform me of their grievances with all the elegance of wit.

"To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I conſider you as ſupplemental to the law of the land. I take your authority to begin, where the power of the law ends. The law is intended to ſtop the progreſs of crimes by puniſhing them; your paper ſeems calculated to check the courſe of follies by expoſing them. May you be more ſucceſsful in the latter than the law is in the former!

Upon this principle I ſhall lay my caſe plainly before you, and deſire your publication of it as a warning to others. Though it may ſeem ridiculous to many of your readers, I can aſſure you, ſir, that it is a very ſerious one to me, notwithſtanding the ill-natured comfort which I might have, of thinking it of late a very common one.

I am a gentleman of a reaſonable paternal eſtate in my county, and ſerve as knight of the ſhire for it. Having what is called a very good family-intereſt, my election incumbered my eſtate with a mortgage of only five thouſand pounds; which I have not been

able to clear, being obliged, by a good place which I have got ſince, to live in town, and in all the beſt company, nine months in the year. I married ſuitable to my circumſtances. My wife wanted neither fortune, beauty, nor underſtanding. Diſcretion and good humor on her part, joined to good-nature and good-manners on mine, made us live comfortably together for eighteen years. One ſon and one daughter were our only children. We complied with cuſtom in the education of both. My daughter learned ſome French and ſome dancing; and my ſon paſſed nine years at Weſtminſter-ſchool, in learning the words of two languages, long ſince dead, and not yet above half revived. When I took him away from ſchool, I reſolved to ſend him directly abroad, having been at Oxford myſelf. My wife approved of my deſign; but tacked a propoſal of her own to it, which ſhe urged with ſome earneſtneſs. "My "dear," ſaid ſhe, "I think you do very right to ſend "George abroad; for I love a foreign education, "though I ſhall not ſee the poor boy a great while; "but, ſince we are to part for ſo long a time, why "ſhould we not take that opportunity of carrying "him ourſelves as far as Paris? The journey is no-"thing, very little farther than to our own houſe in "the north; we ſhall ſave money by it, for every "thing is very cheap in France; it will form the "girl, who is of a right age for it; and a couple of "months, with a good French, and dancing, maſter, "will perfect her in both, and give her an air and "manner that will help her off in theſe days, when "huſbands are not plenty, eſpecially for girls with "only

" only five thouſand pounds to their fortunes. Se-
" veral of my acquaintance, who have lately taken
" trips to Paris, have told me, that to be ſure we
" ſhould take this opportunity of going there. Be-
" ſides, my dear, as neither you nor I have ever
" been abroad, this little jaunt will amuſe and even
" improve us; for it is the eaſieſt thing in the world
" to get into all the beſt company at Paris."

My wife had no ſooner ended her ſpeech, which I eaſily perceived to be the reſult of meditation, than my daughter exerted all her little eloquence in ſeconding her mother's motion. " Ay, dear papa," ſaid ſhe, " let us go with brother to Paris; it will be
" the charmingeſt thing in the world; we ſhall ſee all
" the neweſt faſhions there; I ſhall learn to dance of
" Marſeille *; in ſhort, I ſhall be quite another crea-
" ture after it. You ſee how my couſin Kitty was
" improved by going to Paris laſt year; I hardly
" knew her again when ſhe came back; do, dear
" papa, let us go."

The abſurdity of the propoſal ſtruck me at firſt; and I foreſaw a thouſand inconveniencies in it, though not half ſo many as I have ſince felt. However, knowing that direct contradiction, though ſupported by the beſt arguments, was not the likelieſt method to convert a female diſputant, I ſeemed a little to doubt, and contented myſelf with ſaying, " that I
" was not, at firſt ſight at leaſt, ſenſible of the many
" advantages which they had enumerated, but that,
" on the contrary, I apprehended a great deal of trou-

* Marcel, the moſt famous dancing-maſter, at that time, at Paris. He is often mentioned in lord Cheſterfield's letters to his ſon.

" ble

" ble in the journey, and many inconveniencies in " conſequence of it; that I had not obſerved many " men of my age conſiderably improved by their " travels, but that I had lately ſeen many women of " hers become very ridiculous by theirs; and that " for my daughter, as ſhe had not a fine fortune, I " ſaw no neceſſity of her being a fine lady." Here the girl interrupted me, with ſaying, " For that very " reaſon, papa, I ſhould be a fine lady. Being in " faſhion is often as good as being a fortune; and I " have known air, dreſs, and accompliſhments, ſtand " many a woman in ſtead of a fortune." " Nay, to " be ſure," added my wife, " the girl is in the right " in that; and if with her figure ſhe gets a certain " air and manner, I cannot ſee why ſhe may not rea- " ſonably hope to be as advantageouſly married, as " lady Betty Townly, or the two miſs Bellairs, who " had none of them ſuch good fortunes." I found by all this, that the attack upon me was a concerted one, and that both my wife and daughter were ſtrongly infected with that migrating diſtemper, which has of late been ſo epidemical in this kingdom, and which annually carries ſuch numbers of our private families to Paris, to expoſe themſelves there as Engliſh, and here, after their return, as French; inſomuch that I am aſſured that the French call thoſe ſwarms of Engliſh, which now in a manner overrun France, a ſecond incurſion of the Goths and Vandals.

I endeavoured, as well as I could, to avert this impending folly by delays and gentle perſuaſions, but in vain; the attacks upon me were daily repeated,

and ſometimes enforced by tears. At laſt I yielded, from mere good-nature, to the joint importunities of a wife and daughter whom I loved; not to mention the love of eaſe and domeſtic quiet, which is, much oftener than we care to own, the true motive of many things that we either do or omit.

My conſent being thus extorted, our ſetting out was preſſed. The journey wanted no preparations; we ſhould find every thing in France. My daughter, who ſpoke ſome French, and my ſon's governor, who was a Swiſs, were to be our interpreters upon the road; and when we came to Paris, a French ſervant or two would make all eaſy.

But, as if providence had a mind to puniſh our folly, our whole journey was a ſeries of diſtreſſes. We had not ſailed a league from Dover, before a violent ſtorm aroſe, in which we had like to have been loſt. Nothing could equal our fears but our ſickneſs, which perhaps leſſened them: at laſt we got into Calais, where the inexorable cuſtom-houſe officers took away half the few things which we had carried with us. We hired ſome chaiſes, which proved to be old and ſhattered ones, and broke down with us at leaſt every ten miles. Twice we were overturned, and ſome of us hurt, though there are no bad roads in France. At length, the ſixth day, we got to Paris, where our banker had provided a very good lodging for us; that is, very good rooms, very well furniſhed, and very dirty. Here the great ſcene opens. My wife and daughter, who had been a good deal diſheartened by our diſtreſſes, recovered their ſpirits, and grew extremely impatient for a conſultation of the

the neceſſary trades-people; when luckily our banker and his lady, informed of our arrival, came to make us a viſit. He graciouſly brought me five thouſand livres, which he aſſured me was not more than what would be neceſſary for our firſt ſetting out, as he called it; while his wife was pointing out to mine the moſt compendious method of ſpending three times as much. I told him, that I hoped that ſum would be very near ſufficient for the whole time; to which he anſwered coolly, "No, ſir, nor ſix times that "ſum, if you propoſe, as to be ſure you do, to ap-"pear here *honnêtement*." This, I confeſs, ſtartled me a good deal; and I called out to my wife, "Do you "hear that, child?" She replied, unmoved, "Yes, "my dear, but now that we are here, there is no "help for it; it is but once, upon an extraordinary "occaſion, and one would not care to appear among "ſtrangers like ſcrubs." I made no anſwer to this ſolid reaſoning, but reſolved within myſelf to ſhorten our ſtay, and leſſen our follies, as much as I could. My banker, after having charged himſelf with the care of procuring me a *caroſſe de remiſe* and a *valet de place* for the next day, which in plain Engliſh is a hired coach and a footman, invited us to paſs all the next day at his houſe, where he aſſured us that we ſhould not meet with bad company. He was to carry me and my ſon before dinner to ſee the public buildings; and his lady was to call upon my wife and daughter to carry them to the genteeleſt ſhops, in order to fit them out to appear *honnêtement*. The next morning I amuſed myſelf very well with ſeeing, while my wife and daughter amuſed themſelves ſtill

better

better by preparing themſelves for being ſeen, till we met at dinner at our banker's; who, by way of ſample of the excellent company to which he was to introduce us, preſented to us an Iriſh abbé, and an Iriſh captain of Clare's; two attainted Scotch fugitives, and a young Scotch ſurgeon who ſtudied midwifry at the *Hôtel Dieu*. It is true, he lamented that ſir Harbottle Bumper and ſir Clotworthy Guzzledown with their families, whom he had invited to meet us, happened unfortunately to have been engaged to go and drink brandy at Nueilly. Though this company ſounds but indifferently, and though we ſhould have been very ſorry to have kept it in London, I can aſſure you, ſir, that it was the beſt we kept the whole time we were at Paris.

I will omit many circumſtances which gave me uneaſineſs, though they would probably afford ſome entertainment to your readers, that I may haſten to the moſt material ones.

In about three days, the ſeveral mechanics, who were charged with the care of diſguiſing my wife and daughter, brought home their reſpective parts of this transformation, in order that they might appear *honnêtement*. More than the whole morning was employed in this operation, for we did not ſit down to dinner till near five o'clock. When my wife and daughter came at laſt into the eating-room, where I had waited for them at leaſt two hours, I was ſo ſtruck with their transformation, that I could neither conceal nor expreſs my aſtoniſhment. "Now, my dear," ſaid my wife, "we can appear a little like chriſtians." "And "ſtrollers too," replied I; "for ſuch have I ſeen,

"at

" at Southwark-fair, the reſpectable Syſigambis, and " the lovely Pariſatis. This cannot ſurely be ſerious!" " Very ſerious, depend upon it, my dear," ſaid my wife; " and pray, by the way, what may there be ridi- " culous in it? No ſuch Syſigambis neither," continued ſhe; " Betty is but ſixteen, and you know I " had her at four-and-twenty." As I found that the name of Syſigambis, carrying an idea of age along with it, was offenſive to my wife, I waved the parallel; and, addreſſing myſelf in common to my wife and daughter, I told them, " I perceived that there was a " painter now at Paris, who colored much higher " than Rigault, though he did not paint near ſo like; " for that I could hardly have gueſſed them to be the " pictures of themſelves." To this they both anſwered at once, " That red was not paint; that no " colour in the world was *fard* but white, of which " they proteſted they had none." " But how do " you like my *pompon*, papa!" continued my daughter: " is it not a charming one? I think it is pret- " tier than mamma's." " It may, child, for any " thing that I know; becauſe I do not know what " part of all this frippery thy *pompon* is." " It is " this, papa," replied the girl, putting up her hand to her head, and ſhewing me, in the middle of her hair, a complication of ſhreds and rags of velvets, feathers and ribbands, ſtuck with falſe ſtones of a thouſand colors, and placed awry. " But what haſt thou done " to thy hair, child!" ſaid I; " is it blue? is that " painted too by the ſame eminent hand, that co- " lored thy cheeks?" " Indeed, papa," anſwered the girl, " as I told you before, there is no painting in

" the

" the caſe; but what gives my hair that bluiſh caſt is " the grey powder, which has always that effect upon " dark-colored hair, and ſets off the complexion " wonderfully." " Grey powder, child!" ſaid I, with ſome ſurprize: " grey hairs I knew were ve- " nerable; but till this moment I never knew that " they were genteel." " Extremely ſo, with ſome " complexions," ſaid my wife; " but it does not ſuit " with mine, and I never uſe it." " You are much " in the right, my dear," replied I, " not to play with " edge-tools. Leave it to the girl." This, which perhaps was too haſtily ſaid, and ſeemed to be a ſecond part of the Syſigambis, was not kindly taken; my wife was ſilent all dinner-time, and, I vainly hoped, aſhamed. My daughter, drunk with dreſs and ſix- teen, kept up the converſation to herſelf, till the long- wiſhed-for moment of the opera came, which ſepa- rated us, and left me time to reflect upon the ex- travagances, which I had already ſeen, and upon the ſtill greater, which I had but too much reaſon to dread.

From this period, to the time of our return to England, every day produced ſome new and ſhining folly, and ſome improper expence. Would to God that they had ended as they began, with our journey! but unfortunately we have imported them all. I no longer underſtand, or am underſtood, in my family. I hear of nothing but *le bon ton*. A French valet de chambre, who I am told is an excellent ſervant and fit for every thing, is brought over to curl my wife's and my daughter's hair, to *mount a deſſert*, as they call it, and occaſionally to *announce viſits*.

A very

A very flatternly, dirty, but at the same time a very genteel, French maid is appropriated to the use of my daughter. My meat too is as much disguised in the dressing by a French cook, as my wife and my daughter are by their red, their pompons, their scraps of dirty gauze, flimsy sattins, and black callicoes; not to mention their affected broken English, and mangled French, which jumbled together compose their present language. My French and English servants quarrel daily, and fight, for want of words to abuse one another. My wife is become ridiculous, by being translated into French; and the version of my daughter will, I dare say, hinder many a worthy English gentleman from attempting to read her. My expence, and consequently my debt, increases; and I am made more unhappy by follies, than most other people are by crimes.

Should you think fit to publish this my case, together with some observations of your own upon it, I hope it may prove a useful Pharos, to deter private English families from the coasts of France.

I am, SIR,

Your very humble servant,

R. D."

My correspondent has said enough to caution English gentlemen against carrying their wives and daughters to Paris; but I shall add a few words of my own, to dissuade the ladies themselves from any inclination to such a vagary. In the first place, I assure them, that of all French ragouts there is none, to which an Englishman has so little appetite, as an English lady served

ſerved up to him *à la Françoiſe*. Next I beg leave to inform them, that the French taſte in beauty is ſo different from ours, that a pretty Engliſh woman at Paris, inſtead of meeting with that admiration which her vanity hopes for, is conſidered only as a handſome corpſe; and if, to put a little life into her, ſome of her compaſſionate friends there ſhould perſuade her to lay on a great deal of *rouge*, in Engliſh called paint, ſhe muſt continue to wear it to extreme old age; unleſs ſhe prefers a ſpot of real yellow, the certain conſequence of paint, to an artificial one of red. And, laſtly, I propoſe it to their conſideration, whether the delicacy of an Engliſh lady's mind may not partake of the nature of ſome high-flavoured wines, which will not admit of being carried abroad, though, under right management, they are admirable at home.

XXIV.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, June 14, 1753. N° 24.

I SHALL not at preſent enter into the great queſtion between the antients and the moderns; much leſs ſhall I preſume to decide upon a point of that importance, which has been the ſubject of debate among the learned from the days of Horace down to ours. To make my court to the learned, I will lament the gradual decay of human nature, for theſe laſt ſixteen centuries; but at the ſame time I will do

juſtice to my contemporaries, and give them their due ſhare of praiſe, where they have either ſtruck out new inventions, or improved, and brought old ones to perfection. Some of them I ſhall now mention.

The moſt zealous and partial advocate for the antients will not, I believe, pretend to diſpute the infinite ſuperiority of the moderns in the art of healing. Hippocrates, Celſus, and Galen, had no ſpecifics. They rather endeavoured to relieve, than pretended to cure. As for the aſtoniſhing cures of Æſculapius, I do not put them into the account; they are to be aſcribed to his power, not to his ſkill: he was a god, and divinity was his NOSTRUM. But how prodigiouſly have my ingenious contemporaries extended the bounds of medicine! What noſtrums, what ſpecifics, have they not diſcovered! Collectively conſidered, they inſure not only perfect health, but, by a neceſſary conſequence, immortality; inſomuch that I am aſtoniſhed, when I ſtill read in the weekly bills the great number of people, who chuſe to die of ſuch and ſuch diſtempers, for every one of which there are infallible and ſpecific cures, not only advertiſed, but atteſted, in all the news-papers.

When the lower ſort of Iriſh, in the moſt uncivilized parts of Ireland, attend the funeral of a deceaſed friend or neighbour, before they give the laſt parting howl, they expoſtulate with the dead body, and reproach him with having died, notwithſtanding that he had an excellent wife, a milch cow, ſeven fine children, and a competency of potatoes. Now though all theſe, particularly the excellent wife, are very good things in a ſtate of perfect health, they cannot,

as

as I apprehend, be looked upon as preventive either of ſickneſs or of death; but with how much more reaſon may we expoſtulate with, and cenſure, thoſe of our contemporaries, who, either from obſtinacy or incredulity, die in this great metropolis, or indeed in this kingdom, when they may prevent or cure, at a trifling expence, not only all diſtempers, but even old age and death itſelf! The RENOVATING ELIXIR *infallibly reſtores priſtine youth and vigor, be the patient ever ſo old and decayed*, and that without loſs of time or buſineſs; whereas the ſame operation among the antients was both tedious and painful, as it required a thorough boiling of the patient.

The moſt inflammatory and intrepid fevers fly at the firſt diſcharge of Dr. James's powder; and a drop or pill of the celebrated Mr. Ward corrects all the malignity of Pandora's box.

Ought not every man of great birth and eſtate, who for many years has been afflicted with the POSTEROMANIA, or rage of having poſterity, a diſtemper very common among perſons of that ſort, ought he not, I ſay, to be aſhamed of having no iſſue male to perpetuate his illuſtrious name and title, when, for ſo ſmall a ſum as three-and-ſix-pence, he and his lady might be ſupplied with a ſufficient quantity of the VIVIFYING DROPS, which infallibly cure imbecillity in men, and barrenneſs in women, though of never ſo long ſtanding?

Another very great diſcovery of the moderns, in the art of healing, is the infallible cure of the king's-evil, though never ſo inveterate, by only the touch of a lawful king, the right heir of Adam; for that is

eſſentially neceſſary. The antients were unacquainted with this ineſtimable ſecret, and even Solomon the ſon of David, the wiſeſt of kings, knew nothing of the matter. But our Britiſh Solomon, king James the firſt, a ſon of David alſo, was no ſtranger to it, and practiſed it with ſucceſs. This fact is ſufficiently proved by experience; but if it wanted any corroborating teſtimony, we have that of the ingenious Mr. Carte, who, in his incomparable hiſtory of England, aſſerts, and that in a marginal note too *, which is always more material than the text, that he knew SOMEBODY, who was radically cured of a moſt obſtinate king's-evil, by the touch of SOMEBODY. As our ſagacious hiſtorian does not even intimate that this SOMEBODY took any thing of the other SOMEBODY for the cure, it were to be wiſhed that he had named this SOMEBODY, and his place of abode, "for the "benefit of the poor †," who are now reduced, and at ſome expence, to have recourſe to Mr. Vickers the clergyman. Beſides, I fairly confeſs myſelf to be perſonally intereſted in this enquiry, ſince this SOMEBODY muſt neceſſarily be the right heir of Adam, and conſequently I muſt have the honor of being related to him.

Our laborious neighbours and kinſmen, the Germans, are not without their inventions and happy

* This unlucky note (which Mr. Carte was over-perſuaded by ſome of his friends to inſert) eventually deſtroyed the credit of a hiſtory of which great expectations had been formed.

† Thus the great dean of St. Patrick's gave the world a ſingular ſatire, in 1713, under the title of "Mr. Collins's diſcourſe of free-"thinking; put into Engliſh, by way of abſtract, *for the uſe of the* "*poor*;" re-printed in the Supplement to his Works, 1776.

diſcoveries

diſcoveries in the art of medicine; for they laugh at a wound through the heart, if they can but apply their powder of ſympathy—not to the wound itſelf, but to the ſword or bullet that made it.

Having now, at leaſt in my own opinion, fully proved the ſuperiority of the moderns over the antients in the art of healing, I ſhall proceed to ſome other particulars, in which my contemporaries will as juſtly claim, and I hope be allowed, the preference.

The ingenious Mr. Warburton, in his *Divine Legation of Moſes*, very juſtly obſerves, that hieroglyphics were the beginning of letters, but at the ſame time he very candidly allows, that it was a very troubleſome and uncertain method of communicating one's ideas; as it depended in a great meaſure on the writer's ſkill in drawing, an art little known in thoſe days; and as a ſtroke too much or too little, too high or too low, might be of the moſt dangerous conſequence in religion, buſineſs, or love. Cadmus removed this difficulty by his invention of unequivocal letters, but then he removed it too much; for theſe letters or marks, being the ſame throughout, and fixed alphabetically, ſoon became generally known, and prevented that ſecrecy, which in many caſes was to be wiſhed for. This inconvenience ſuggeſted to the antients the invention of cryptography and ſteganography, or a myſterious and unintelligible way of writing, by the help of which none but correſponding parties, who had the key, could decypher the matter. But human induſtry ſoon refined upon this too; the art of decyphering was diſcovered, and the ſkill of the decypherer baffled all the labor of the cypherer.

The ſecrecy of all literary correſpondence became precarious; and neither buſineſs nor love could any longer be ſafely truſted to paper. Such for a conſiderable time was the unhappy ſtate of letters, till the BEAU MONDE, an inventive race of people, found out a new kind of cryptography, or ſteganography, unknown to the antients, and free from ſome of their inconveniencies. Lovers in general made uſe of it, controverſial writers commonly, and miniſters of ſtate ſometimes, in the moſt important diſpatches. It was writing in ſuch an unintelligible manner, and with ſuch obſcurity, that the correſponding parties themſelves neither underſtood, nor even gueſſed at, each other's meaning; which was a moſt effectual ſecurity againſt all the accidents, to which letters are liable by being either miſlaid or intercepted. But this method too, though long purſued, was alſo attended with ſome inconveniencies. It frequently produced miſtakes, by ſcattering falſe lights upon that friendly darkneſs, ſo propitious to buſineſs and love. But our inventive neighbours, the French, have very lately removed all theſe inconveniencies, by a happy diſcovery of a new kind of paper, as pleaſing to the eye, and as conducive to the diſpatch, the clearneſs, and at the ſame time the ſecrecy, of all literary correſpondence. My worthy friend Mr. Dodſley lately brought me a ſample of it, upon which, if I miſtake not, he will make very conſiderable improvements, as my countrymen often do upon the inventions of other nations. This ſheet of paper I conjectured to be the ground-work and principal material of a tender and paſſionate letter from a fine gentleman to a fine lady; though

though in truth it might very well be the whole letter itself. At the top of the first page was delineated a lady, with very red cheeks and a very large hoop, in the fashionable attitude of knotting, and of making a very genteel French curtesy. This evidently appears to stand for MADAM, and saves the time and trouble of writing it. At the bottom of the third page, was painted a very fine well-dressed gentleman, with his hat under his left arm, and his right hand upon his heart, bowing most respectfully low; which single figure, by an admirable piece of brachygraphy, or short-hand, plainly conveys this deep sense, and stands instead of these many words, "I have the ho- "nor to be, with the tendereſt and warmeſt senti- "ments, madam, your most inviolably attached, "faithful humble servant." The margin of the paper, which was about half an inch broad, was very properly decorated with all the emblems of triumphant beauty and tender suffering passion. Groups of lilies, roses, pearls, corals, suns, and stars, were intermixed with chains, bearded shafts, and bleeding hearts. Such a sheet of paper, I confess, seems to me to be a compleat letter; and I would advise all fine gentlemen, whose time I know is precious, to avail themselves of this admirable invention: it will save them a great deal of time, and perhaps some thought; and I cannot help thinking, that, were they even to take the trouble of filling up the paper with the tendereſt sentiments of their hearts, or the most shining flights of their fancy, they would add no energy or delicacy to those types and symbols of the lady's conquest, and their own captivity and sufferings.

These blank letters, if I may call them so, when they convey so much, will mock the jealous curiosity of husbands and fathers, who will in vain hold them to the fire, to elicit the supposed juice of lemon, and upon whom they may afterwards pass for a piece of innocent pleasantry.

The dullest of my readers must, I am sure, by this time be aware, that the utility of this invention extends, *mutatis mutandis*, to whatever can be the subject of letters, and with much less trouble, and much more secrecy, propriety, and elegancy, than the old way of writing.

A painter of but moderate skill and fancy may, in a very short time, have reams of ready-painted paper by him, to supply the demands of the statesman, the divine, and the lover. And I think it my duty to inform the public, that my good friend Mr. Dodsley, who has long complained of the decay of trade, and who loves, with a prudent regard to his own interest, to encourage every useful invention, is at this time learning to paint with most unwearied diligence and application: and I make no doubt, but that, in a very little time, he will be able to furnish all sorts of persons with the very best ready-made goods of that kind. I warned him indeed against providing any for the two learned professions of the law and physic, which I apprehend would lie upon his hands: one of them being already in possession, to speak in their own style, of a more brachygraphical, cryptographical, and steganographical secret, in writing their WARRANTS; and the other not willingly admitting brevity in any shape. Otherwise, what innumerable

numerable skins of parchment and lines of writing might be saved in a marriage-settlement, for instance, if the first fourteen or fifteen sons, the supposed future issue, LAWFULLY TO BE BEGOTTEN of that happy marriage, and upon whom the settlement is successively made, were to be painted every one a size less than the other upon one skin of parchment, instead of being enumerated upon one hundred, according to propriety of birth and seniority of age; and moreover the elder, by an happy *pleonasmus*, always to take before, and be preferred to, the younger! but this useful alteration is more to be wished than expected, for reasons which I do not at present think proper to mention.

I am sensible that the government may possibly object, that I am suggesting to its enemies a method of carrying on their treasonable correspondences, with much more secrecy than formerly. But, as my intentions are honest, I should be very sorry to have my loyalty suspected; and when I consider the zeal, and at the same time the ingenuity, of the Jacobites, I am convinced that their letters in this new method will be so charged with groves of oaken boughs, white roses and thistles interwoven, that their meaning will not be obscure, and consequently no danger will arise to the government from this new and excellent invention.

XXV.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, June 21, 1753. N° 25.

I HAVE the pleaſure of informing my fair correſpondent, that her petition contained in the following letter is granted. I wiſh I could as eaſily reſtore to her what ſhe has loſt. But to a mind like hers, ſo elevated! ſo harmonized! time and the conſciouſneſs of ſo much purity of intention will bring relief. It muſt always afford her matter of the moſt pleaſing reflection, that her ſoul had no participation with her material part in that particular act, which ſhe appears to mention with ſo tender regret. But it is not my intention to anticipate her ſtory, by endeavouring to conſole her. Her letter, I hope, will caution all young ladies of equal virtue with herſelf againſt that exceſs of complaiſance, with which they are ſometimes too willing to entertain their lovers.

" To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I HAVE not the leaſt ill-will to your friend Mr. Dodſley, whom I never ſaw in my life; but I addreſs myſelf to your equity and good-nature, for a ſmall ſhare only of your favour and recommendation in that new and valuable branch of trade, to which you have informed the public he is now applying himſelf,

and

and which I hope you will not think it reasonable that he should monopolize. I mean that admirable short and secret method of communicating one's ideas, by ingenious emblems and representations of the pencil, instead of the vulgar and old method of letters by the pen. Give me leave, sir, to state my case and my qualifications to you: I am sure you will decide with justice.

I am the daughter of a clergyman, who, having had a very good living, gave me a good education, and left me no fortune. I had naturally a turn to reading and drawing: my father encouraged and assisted me in the one, allowed me a master to instruct me in the other, and I made an uncommon progress in them both. My heart was tender, and my sentiments were delicate; perhaps too much so for my rank in life. This disposition led me to study chiefly those treasures of divine honor, spotless virtue, and refined sentiment, the voluminous romances of the last century: sentiments, from which, I thank heaven, I have never deviated. From a sympathizing softness of soul, how often have I wept over those affecting distresses! how have I shared the pangs of the chaste and lovely Mariamne upon the death of the tender, the faithful Tiridates! and how has my indignation been excited, at the unfaithful and ungenerous historical misrepresentations of the gallant first Brutus, who was undoubtedly the tendereſt lover that ever lived! My drawings took the same elegant turn with my reading. I painted all the most moving and tender stories of charming Ovid's Metamorphoses; not without sometimes mingling my tears with my colors. I pre-

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sented some fans of my own painting to some ladies in the neighbourhood, who were pleased to commend both the execution and the designs. The latter I always took care should be moving, and at the same time irreproachably pure; and I found means even to represent, with unblemished delicacy, the unhappy passion of the unfortunate Pasiphaë. With this turn of mind, this softness of soul, it will be supposed that I loved. I did so, sir; tenderly and truly I loved. Why should I disown a passion, which, when clarified as mine was from the impure dregs of sensuality, is the noblest and most generous sentiment of the human breast? O! that the false heart of the dear deceiver, whose perfidious vows betrayed mine, had been but as pure! The traitor was quartered, with his troop of dragoons, in the town where I lived. His person was a happy compound of the manly strength of a hero, and all the softer graces of a lover; and I thought that I discovered in him, at first sight, all the courage and all the tenderness of Oroondates. My figure, which was not bad, it seems, pleased him as much. He sought and obtained my acquaintance. Soon by his eyes, and soon after by his words, he declared his passion to me. My blushes, my confusion, and my silence, too plainly spoke mine. Good gods! how tender were his words! how languishingly soft his eyes! with what ardor did he press my hand; a trifling liberty, which one cannot decently refuse, and for which refusal there is no precedent! Sometimes he addressed me in the moving words of Varanes, sometimes in the tender accents of Castalio, and sometimes in the warmer language of Juba; for he was a very

good

good ſcholar. In ſhort, ſir, a month was not paſt before he preſſed for what he called a proof of my paſſion. I trembled at the very thought, and reproached him with the indelicacy of it. He perſiſted; and I, in compliance with cuſtom only, hinted previous marriage: he urged love, and I was not vulgar enough to refuſe to the man I tenderly loved the proof he required of my paſſion. I yielded, it is true; but it was to ſentiment, not to deſire. A few months gave me reaſon to ſuſpect that his paſſion was not quite ſo pure: and within the year, the perfidious wretch convinced me that it had been merely ſenſual: for, upon the removal of his troop to other quarters, he took a cold leave of me, and contented himſelf with ſaying, that in the courſe of quarters he hoped to have the pleaſure, ſome time or other, of ſeeing me again. You, Mr. Fitz-Adam, if you have any elegancy of ſoul, as I dare ſay you have, can better gueſs than I can expreſs the agonies I felt, and the tears I ſhed upon this occaſion: but all in vain; vain as the thouſand tender letters which I have written to him ſince, and to which I have received no anſwer. As all this paſſed within the courſe of ten months, I had but one child; which dear pledge of my firſt and only love I now maintain, at the expence of more than half of what I have to ſubſiſt upon myſelf.

Having now, as I hope, prepared your compaſſion, and proved my qualification, I proceed to the prayer of my petition; which is, that you will be pleaſed to recommend me to the public, with all that authority which you have ſo juſtly acquired, for a ſhare of this new and beneficial branch of trade; I mean no farther

than the juſt bounds to which the female province may extend. Let Mr. Dodſley engroſs all the reſt, with my beſt wiſhes. Though I ſay it, I believe nobody has a clearer notion of the theory of delicate ſentiments than I have; and I have already a conſiderable ſtock in hand of theſe allegorical and emblematical paintings, applicable to almoſt every ſituation in which a woman of ſenſe, virtue, and delicacy, can find herſelf. I indulged my fancy in painting them, according to the various diſpoſitions of mind which my various fortunes produced. I think I may ſay without vanity, that I have made conſiderable improvements in the celebrated map of the realms of love in Clelia. I have adorned the banks of the gentle and cryſtalline Tender, with ſeveral new villages and groves; and added expreſſion to the pleaſing melancholic groves of ſighs and tender cares. I have whole quires, painted in my happier moments, of hearts united and crowned, fluttering Cupids, wanton zephyrs, conſtant and tender doves, myrtle bowers, banks of jeſſamine and tuberoſe, and ſhady groves. Theſe will require very little filling up, if any, from ladies who are in the tranſported ſituation of growing loves. For the forſaken and complaining fair, with whom, alas! I too fatally ſympathize, I have tender willows drooping over murmuring brooks, and gloomy walks of mournful cypreſs and ſolemn yew. In ſhort, ſir, I either have by me, or will forthwith provide, whatever can convey the moſt perfect ideas of elegant friendſhip, or pure, refined, and ſentimental paſſion. But I think it neceſſary to give notice, that if any ladies would expreſs any indelicate ideas of love, or re-

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quire any types or emblems of ſenſual joy, they muſt not apply to,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

PARTHENISSA."

XXVI.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, July 19, 1753. N° 29.

SIR,

I TROUBLED you ſome time ago with an account of my diſtreſs, ariſing from the female part of my family. I told you that, by an unfortunate trip to Paris, my wife and daughter had run ſtark French, and I wiſh I could tell you now that they were perfectly recovered: but all I can ſay is, that the violence of the ſymptoms ſeems to abate, in proportion as the cloaths that inflamed them wear out.

My preſent misfortune flows from a direct contrary cauſe, and affects me much more ſenſibly. The little whims, affectations, and delicacies of ladies, may be both ridiculous and diſagreeable, eſpecially to thoſe who are obliged to be at once the witneſſes and the martyrs of them; but they are not evils to be compared with the obſtinate wrong-headedneſs, the idle and illiberal turn, of an only ſon, which is unfortunately my caſe.

I ac-

I acquainted you, that in the education of my ſon I had conformed to the common cuſtom of this country, perhaps I conformed to it too much and too ſoon; and that I carried him to Paris, from whence, after ſix months ſtay, he was to go upon his travels, and take the uſual tour of Italy and Germany. I thought it very neceſſary for a young man, though not for a young lady, to be well acquainted with the languages, the manners, the characters, and the conſtitutions, of other countries; the want of which I experienced and lamented in myſelf. In order to enable him to keep good company, I allowed him more than I could conveniently afford; and I truſted him to the care of a Swiſs governor, a gentleman of ſome learning, good-ſenſe, good-nature, and good-manners. But how cruelly I am diſappointed in all theſe hopes, what follows will inform you.

During his ſtay at Paris, he only frequented the worſt Engliſh company there, with whom he was unhappily engaged in two or three ſcrapes, which the credit and the good-nature of the Engliſh ambaſſador helped him out of. He hired a low Iriſh wench, whom he drove about in a hired chaiſe, to the great honor of himſelf, his family, and his country. He did not learn one word of French, and never ſpoke to Frenchman or Frenchwoman, excepting ſome vulgar and injurious epithets, which he beſtowed upon them in very plain Engliſh. His governor very honeſtly informed me of this conduct, which he tried in vain to reform, and adviſed their removal to Italy, which accordingly I immediately ordered. His

behaviour

behaviour there will appear in the trueſt light to you, by his own and his governor's laſt letters to me, of which I here give you faithful copies.

"Rome, May the 3d, 1753.

"SIR,

"In the ſix weeks that I paſſed at Florence, and "the week I ſtayed at Genoa, I never had time to "write to you, being wholly taken up with ſeeing "things, of which the moſt remarkable is the ſteeple "of Piſa: it is the oddeſt thing I ever ſaw in my "life, it ſtands all awry; I wonder it does not tum-"ble down. I met with a great many of my coun-"trywomen, and we live together very ſociably. I "have been here now a month, and will give you "an account of my way of life. Here are a great "many agreeable Engliſh gentlemen; we are about "nine or ten as ſmart bucks as any in England. "We conſtantly breakfaſt together, and then either "go and ſee ſights, or drive about the outlets of "Rome in chaiſes; but the horſes are very bad, and "the chaiſes do not follow well. We meet before "dinner at the Engliſh coffee-houſe; where there is "a very good billiard-table, and very good com-"pany. From thence we go and dine together by "turns at each other's lodgings. Then, after a "chearful glaſs of claret, for we have made a ſhift "to get ſome here, we go to the coffee-houſe again; "from thence to ſupper; and ſo to bed. I do not "believe that theſe Romans are a bit like the old "Romans; they are a parcel of thin-gutted, ſnivel-"ing, cringing dogs, and I verily believe that our

"set could thresh forty of them. We never go "among them; it would not be worth while: be- "sides, we none of us speak Italian, and none of "those signors speak English; which shews what "sort of fellows they are. We saw the pope go by "the other day in a procession, but we resolved to "assert the honor of old England; so we neither "bowed, nor pulled off our hats, to the old rogue. "Provisions and liquor are but bad here; and, to "say the truth, I have not had one thorough good "meal's meat since I left England. No longer ago "than last Sunday, we wanted to have a good plumb- "pudding; but we found the materials difficult to "provide, and were obliged to get an English foot- "man to make it. Pray, sir, let me come home; "for I cannot find that one is a jot the better for "seeing all these outlandish places and people. But "if you will not let me come back, for God's sake, "sir, take away the impertinent *mounseer* you sent "with me. He is a considerable expence to you, "and of no manner of service to me. All the Eng- "lish here laugh at him, he is such a prig. He "thinks himself a fine gentleman, and is always "plaguing me to go into foreign companies, to learn "foreign languages, and to get foreign manners; as "if I were not to live and die in old England, and "as if good English acquaintance would not be "much more useful to me than outlandish ones. "Dear sir, grant me this request, and you shall ever "find me

"Your most dutiful son,

"G. D."

The

The following is a very honeſt and ſenſible letter, which I received at the ſame time from my ſon's governor.

" Rome, May the 3d, 1753.

" SIR,

" I think myſelf obliged in conſcience to inform " you, that the money you are pleaſed to allow me, " for my attendance upon your ſon, is abſolutely " thrown away; ſince I find, by melancholy expe- " rience, that I can be of no manner of uſe to him. " I have tried all poſſible methods to prevail with " him to anſwer, in ſome degree at leaſt, your good " intentions in ſending him abroad; but all in vain: " and, in return for my endeavours, I am either " laughed at or inſulted. Sometimes I am called a " beggarly French dog, and bid to go back to my " own country and eat my frogs; and ſometimes I " am *mounſeer ragout*, and told that I think myſelf a " very fine gentleman. I daily repreſent to him, " that, by ſending him abroad, you meant that he " ſhould learn the languages, the manners, and cha- " racters, of different countries; and that he ſhould " add to the claſſical education which you had given " him at home, a knowledge of the world, and the " genteel eaſy manners of a man of faſhion, which " can only be acquired by frequenting the beſt com- " panies abroad. To which he only anſwers me " with a ſneer of contempt, and ſays, " ſo be like- " ye, ha!" I would have connived at the common " vices of youth, if they had been attended with the

" leaſt degree of decency or refinement; but I muſt
" not conceal from you, that your ſon's are of the
" loweſt and moſt degrading kind, and avowed in
" the moſt public and indecent manner. I have never
" been able to perſuade him to deliver the letters of
" recommendation which you procured him; he ſays,
" he does not deſire to keep ſuch company. I ad-
" viſed him to take an Italian maſter; which he
" flatly refuſed, ſaying that he ſhould have time
" enough to learn Italian, when he went back to
" England. But he has taken, of himſelf, a muſic
" maſter to teach him to play upon the German
" flute, upon which he throws away two or three
" hours every day. We ſpend a great deal of money,
" without doing you or ourſelves any honor by it;
" though your ſon, like the generality of his coun-
" trymen, values himſelf upon the expence, and
" looks upon all foreigners, who are not able to make
" ſo conſiderable a one, as a parcel of beggars and
" ſcoundrels, ſpeaks of them, and, if he ſpoke to
" them, would treat them, as ſuch.

" If I might preſume to adviſe you, ſir, it ſhould
" be to order us home forthwith. I can aſſure you
" that your ſon's morals and manners will be in
" much leſs danger under your own inſpection at
" home, than they can be under mine abroad; and
" I defy him to keep worſe Engliſh company
" in England than he now keeps here. But, what-
" ever you may think fit to determine concern-
" ing him, I muſt humbly inſiſt upon my own
" diſmiſſion, and upon leave to aſſure you in perſon

" of

" of the reſpect with which I have the honor " to be,

" SIR,

" Your, &c."

I have complied with my ſon's requeſt, in conſequence of his governor's advice, and have ordered him to come home immediately. But what ſhall I do with him here, where he is but too likely to be encouraged and countenanced in theſe illiberal and ungentleman-like manners? My caſe is ſurely moſt ſingularly unfortunate; to be plagued on one ſide by the polite and elegant foreign follies of my wife and daughter, and on the other by the unconforming obſtinacy, the low vulgar exceſſes, and the porter-like manners, of my ſon.

Perhaps my fortune may ſuggeſt to you ſome thoughts upon the methods of education in general, which, conveyed to the public through your paper, may prove of public uſe. It is in that view ſingly that you have had this ſecond trouble from,

SIR,

Your moſt humble ſervant and conſtant reader,

R. D.

I allow the caſe of my worthy correſpondent to be compaſſionate, but I cannot poſſibly allow it to be ſingular. The public places daily prove the contrary too plainly. I confeſs I oftener pity than blame the errors of youth, when I reflect upon the fundamental errors generally committed by their parents in their education. Many totally neglect, and many miſtake

it. The antients began the education of their children, by forming their hearts and their manners. They taught them the duty of men and of citizens; we teach them the languages of the antients, and leave their morals and manners to ſhift for themſelves.

As for the modern ſpecies of human bucks, I impute their brutality to the negligence or the fondneſs of their parents. It is obſerved in parks, among their betters, the real bucks, that the moſt troubleſome and miſchievous are thoſe who were bred up tame, fondled, and fed out of the hand, when fawns. They abuſe, when grown up, the indulgence they met with in their youth; and their familiarity grows troubleſome and dangerous with their horns.

XXVII.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, Dec. 7, 1753. N° 49.

THOUGH I am an old fellow, I am neither four nor ſilly enough yet, to be a ſnarling *laudator temporis acti*, and to hate or deſpiſe the preſent age becauſe it is the preſent. I cannot, like many of my cotemporaries, rail at the wonderful degeneracy and corruption of theſe times, nor, by ſneering compliments to the ingenious, the ſagacious moderns, intimate that they have not common ſenſe. I really do not think that the preſent age is marked out by

any

any new and diſtinguiſhed vices and follies, unknown to former ages. On the contrary, I am apt to ſuſpect that human nature was always very like what it is at this day; and that men, from the time of my great progenitors down to this moment, have always had in them the ſame ſeeds of virtue and vice, wiſdom and folly, of which only the modes have varied, from climate, education, and a thouſand other conſpiring cauſes.

Perhaps this uncommon good-humour and indulgence of mine to my cotemporaries may be owing to the natural benignity of my conſtitution, in which I can diſcover no particles of envy or ill-nature, even to my rivals, both in fame and profit, the weekly writers; or perhaps to the ſuperiority of my parts, which every body muſt acknowledge, and which places me infinitely above the mean ſentiments of envy and jealouſy. But, whatever may be the true cauſe, which probably neither my readers nor I ſhall ever diſcover with preciſion, this at leaſt is certain, that the preſent age has not only the honor and pleaſure of being extremely well with me, but, if I dare ſay ſo, better than any that I have yet either heard or read of. Both vices and virtues are ſmoothed and ſoftened by manners, and though they exiſt as they ever have done, yet the former are become leſs barbarous, and the latter leſs rough; inſomuch that I am as glad as Mr. Voltaire can be, that I have the good fortune to live in this age, independently of that intereſted conſideration, that it is rather better to be ſtill alive, than only to have lived.

This my benevolence to my countrymen and cotemporaries ought to be esteemed still the more meritorious in me, when I shall make it appear that no man's merit has been less attended to or rewarded than mine: and nothing produces ill-humor, rancour, and malevolence so much, as neglected and unrewarded merit.

The utility of my weekly labors is evident, and their effects, wherever they are read, prodigious. They are equally calculated, I may say it without vanity, to form the heart, improve the understanding, and please the fancy. Notwithstanding all which, the ungrateful public does not take above three thousand of them a week, though, according to Mr. Maitland's calculation of the number of inhabitants in this great metropolis, they ought to take two hundred thousand of them, supposing only five persons, and one paper to each family; and allowing seven millions of souls in the rest of the kingdom, I may modestly say, that one million more of them ought to be taken and circulated in the country. The profit arising from the sale of twelve hundred thousand papers would be some encouragement to me to continue these my labors, for the benefit of mankind.

I have not yet had the least intimation from the ministers, that they have any thoughts of calling me to their assistance, and giving me some considerable employment of honor and profit; and, having had no such intimations, I am justly apprehensive that they have no such intentions: such intimations being always long previous to the performance, often to the intentions.

Nor

Nor have I been invited, as I confeſs I expected to be, by any conſiderable borough or county, to repreſent them in the next parliament, and to defend their liberties, and the Chriſtian religion, againſt the miniſters and the Jews. But I think I can account for this ſeeming ſlight, without mortification to my vanity and ſelf-love; my name being a pentateuch name, which, in theſe ſuſpicious and doubtful times, ſavours too ſtrongly of Judaiſm; though, upon the faith of a Chriſtian, I have not the leaſt tendency to it; and I muſt do Mrs. Fitz-Adam, who I own has ſome influence over me, the juſtice to ſay, that ſhe has the utmoſt horror for thoſe ſanguinary rites and ceremonies.

Notwithſtanding all this ill uſage, for every man may be ſaid to be ill uſed who is not rewarded according to his own eſtimation of his own merit, which I feel and lament, I cannot however call the preſent age names, and brand it with degeneracy; nature, as I have already obſerved, being always the ſame, modes only varying. With modes, the ſignification of words alſo varies, and, in the courſe of thoſe variations, convey ideas very different from thoſe which they were originally intended to expreſs. I could give numberleſs inſtances of this kind, but at preſent I ſhall content myſelf with this ſingle one.

The word HONOR, in its proper ſignification, doubtleſs implies the united ſentiments of virtue, truth, and juſtice, carried by a generous mind beyond thoſe mean moral obligations, which the laws require, or can puniſh the violation of. A TRUE MAN OF HONOR will not content himſelf with the literal

teral discharge of the duties of a man and a citizen; he raises and dignifies them into magnanimity. He gives where he may with justice refuse, he forgives where he may with justice resent, and his whole conduct is directed by the noble sentiments of his own unvitiated heart; surer and more scrupulous guides than the laws of the land, which, being calculated for the generality of mankind, must necessarily be more a restraint upon vices in general, than an invitation and reward of particular virtues. But these extensive and compound notions of HONOR have been long contracted, and reduced to the single one of personal courage. Among the Romans, HONOR meant no more than contempt of dangers and death in the service, whether just or unjust, of their country. Their successors and conquerors, the Goths and Vandals, who did not deal much in complex ideas, simplified those of HONOR, and reduced them to this plain and single one, of fighting for fighting's sake, upon any, or all, no matter what, occasions.

Our present mode of HONOR is something more compounded, as will appear by the true character which I shall now give of a fashionable MAN OF HONOR.

A Gentleman *, which is now the genteel synonymous term for a MAN OF HONOR, must, like his Gothic ancestors, be ready for, and rather desirous of, single combat. And if by a proper degree of wrong-

* A gentleman is every man, who with a tolerable suit of cloaths, a sword by his side, and a watch and snuff-box in his pockets, asserts himself to be a gentleman, swears with energy that he will be treated as such, and that he will cut the throat of any man who presumes to say the contrary.

headedneſs he provokes it, he is only ſo much the more jealous of his HONOR, and more of a GENTLEMAN.

He may lie with impunity, if he is neither detected nor accuſed of it: for it is not the lie he tells, but the lie he is told of, that diſhonors him. In that caſe he demonſtrates his veracity by his ſword or his piſtol, and either kills or is killed with the greateſt HONOR.

He may abuſe and ſtarve his own wife, daughters, or ſiſters, and he may ſeduce thoſe of other men, particularly his friends, with inviolate HONOR, becauſe, as ſir John Brute very juſtly obſerves, *he wears a ſword.*

By the laws of HONOR, he is not obliged to pay his ſervants or his tradeſmen; for, as they are a pack of ſcoundrels, they cannot without inſolence demand their due of a gentleman: but he muſt punctually pay his gaming-debts to the ſharpers who have cheated him; for thoſe debts are really debts of HONOR.

He lies under one diſagreeable reſtraint; for he muſt not cheat at play, unleſs in a horſe-match: but then he may with great HONOR defraud in an office, or betray a truſt.

In public affairs, he may, not only with HONOR, but even with ſome degree of LUSTRE, be in the ſame ſeſſion a turbulent patriot, oppoſing the beſt meaſures, and a ſervile courtier, promoting the worſt; provided a very lucrative conſideration be known to be the motive of his converſion: for in that caſe the point of HONOR turns ſingly upon the *quantum.*

From

From these premises, which the more they are considered the truer they will be found, it appears that there are but two things which a man of the nicest HONOR may not do, which are, declining single combat, and cheating at play. Strange! that VIRTUE should be so difficult; and HONOR, its superior, so easy to attain to!

The uninformed herd of mankind are governed by words and names, which they implicitly receive without either knowing or asking their meaning. Even the philosophical and religious controversies, for the last three or four hundred years, have turned much more upon words and names, unascertained and misunderstood, than upon things fairly stated. The polite world, to save time and trouble, receive, adapt, and use words, in the signification of the day; not having leisure nor inclination to examine and analyse them: and thus, often misled by sounds, and not always secured by sense, they are hurried into fatal errors, which they do not give their understandings fair play enough to prevent.

In explaining words, therefore, and bringing them back to their true signification, one may sometimes happen to expose and explode those errors, which the abuse of them both occasions and protects. May that be the good fortune of this day's paper! How many unthinking and unhappy men really take themselves to be MEN of HONOR, upon these mistaken ideas of that word! And how fatal to others, especially to the young and unexperienced, is their example and success in the world! I could heartily wish that some good dramatic poet would exhibit at full length

length and in lively colors, upon the ſtage, this modiſh character of a MAN of HONOR, of which I have but ſlightly and haſtily chalked the outlines. Upon ſuch a ſubject, I am apt to think that a good poet might be more uſeful than a good preacher, as perhaps his audiences would be more numerous, and his matter more attended to. Beſides,

" Segnius irritant animos, demiſſa per aurem
" Quam quæ ſunt oculis ſubjecta fidelibus, et quæ
" Ipſe ſibi tradit ſpectator *."

P. S. To prevent miſtakes, I muſt obſerve that there is a great difference between a MAN of HONOR, and a PERSON of HONOR. By PERSONS of HONOR were meant, in the latter end of the laſt century, bad authors and poets of noble birth, who were but juſt not fools enough to prefix their names in great letters to the prologues, epilogues, and ſometimes even the plays, with which they entertained the public. But now that our nobility are too generous to interfere in the trade of us poor profeſſed authors, or to eclipſe our performances by the diſtinguiſhed and ſuperior excellency and luſtre of theirs; the meaning at preſent of a PERSON of HONOR is reduced to the SIMPLE idea of a PERSON of ILLUSTRIOUS BIRTH.

* Horat. Art. Poet.

—— What we hear
More ſlowly moves the heart than what we ſee.
DUNCOMBE's *tranſlation.*

XXVIII.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Sept. 19, 1754. N° 90.

AN old friend and fellow-ſtudent of mine at the univerſity, called upon me the other morning, and found me reading Plato's Sympoſion. I laid down my book to receive him, which, after the firſt uſual compliments, he took up, ſaying, "You "will give me leave to ſee what was the object of "your ſtudies." "Nothing leſs than the divine "Plato," ſaid I, "that amiable philoſopher—" "with "whom," interrupted my friend, "Cicero declares "that he would rather be in the wrong, than in the "right with any other." "I cannot," replied I, "carry my veneration for him to that degree of en-"thuſiaſm; but yet, wherever I underſtand him, for "I confeſs I do not every where, I prefer him to "all the antient philoſophers. His Sympoſion more "particularly engages and entertains me, as I ſee "there the manners and characters of the moſt emi-"nent men, of the politeſt times, of the politeſt "city of Greece. And, with all due reſpect to the "moderns, I much queſtion whether an account of "a modern Sympoſion, though written by the ableſt "hand, could be read with ſo much pleaſure and "improvement." "I do not know that," replied my friend; "for, though I revere the antients as "much as you poſſibly can, and look upon the mo-"derns as pigmies, when compared to thoſe giants,

"yet

" yet if we come up to or near them in any thing,
" it is in the elegance and delicacy of our convivial
" intercourſe."

I was the more ſurprized at this doubt of my friend's, becauſe I knew that he implicitly ſubſcribed to, and ſuperſtitiouſly maintained, all the articles of the claſſical faith. I therefore aſked him, whether he was ſerious? He anſwered me " that he was:
" that, in his mind, Plato ſpun out that ſilly affair
" of love too fine and too long; and that, if I would
" but let him introduce me to the club of which he
" was an unworthy member, he believed I ſhould at
" leaſt entertain the ſame doubt, or perhaps even
" decide in favour of the moderns." I thanked my friend for his kindneſs, but added that, in whatever ſociety he was an unworthy member, I ſhould be ſtill a more unworthy gueſt; that, moreover, my retired and domeſtic turn of life was as inconſiſtent with the engagements of a club, as my natural taciturnity among ſtrangers would be miſplaced in the midſt of all that feſtal mirth and gaiety. " You miſtake me," anſwered my friend; " every member of our club
" has the privilege of bringing one friend along with
" him, who is by no means thereby to become a
" member of it; and as for your taciturnity, we have
" ſome ſilent members, who, by the way, are none
" of our worſt. Silent people never ſpoil company;
" but, on the contrary, by being good hearers, en-
" courage good ſpeakers." " But I have another
" difficulty," anſwered I, " and that I doubt a very
" ſolid one, which is, that I drink nothing but wa-
" ter." " So much the worſe for you," replied my friend,

friend, who, by the bye, loves his bottle moſt academically; "you will pay for the claret you do not "drink. We uſe no compulſion; every one drinks "as little as he pleaſes—" "Which I preſume," interrupted I, "is as much as he can." "That is "juſt as it happens," ſaid he: "ſometimes, it is "true, we make pretty good ſittings, but for my "own part, I chuſe to go home always before ele-"ven: for, take my word for it, it is the ſitting-up "late, and not the drink, that deſtroys the conſti-"tution." As I found that my friend would have taken a refuſal ill, I told him that for this once I would certainly attend him to the club, but deſired him to give me previouſly the outlines of the characters of the ſitting members, that I might know how to behave myſelf properly. "Your precau-"tion," ſaid he, "is a prudent one; and I will "make you ſo well acquainted with them before-"hand, that you ſhall not ſeem a ſtranger when "among them. You muſt know then, that our "club conſiſts of at leaſt forty members when com-"pleat. Of theſe, many are now in the country; "and, beſides, we have ſome vacancies, which can-"not be filled up till next winter. Palſies and apo-"plexies have of late, I do not know why, been "pretty rife among us, and carried off a good many. "It is not above a week ago, that poor Tom Toaſt-"well fell on a ſudden under the table, as we "thought only a little in drink, but he was carried "home, and never ſpoke more. Thoſe whom you "will probably meet with to-day are, firſt of all, "lord Feeble, a nobleman of admirable ſenſe, a true

" fine gentleman, and, for a man of quality, a pretty " claſſic. He has lived rather faſt formerly, and " impaired his conſtitution by ſitting up late, and " drinking your thin ſharp wines. He is ſtill what " you call nervous, which makes him a little low- " ſpirited and reſerved at firſt; but he grows very " affable and chearful, as ſoon as he has warmed his " ſtomach with about a bottle of good claret.

" Sir Tunbelly Guzzle is a very worthy north- " country baronet of a good eſtate, and one who was " beforehand in the world, till, being twice choſen " knight of the ſhire, and having in conſequence got " a pretty employment at court, he ran out conſider- " ably. He has left off houſe-keeping, and is now " upon a retrieving ſcheme. He is the heartieſt, " honeſteſt fellow living; and though he is a man " of very few words, I can aſſure you he does not " want ſenſe. He had an univerſity education, and " has a good notion of the claſſics. The poor man " is confined half the year at leaſt with the gout, " and has beſides an inveterate ſcurvy, which I can- " not account for: no man can live more regularly, " he eats nothing but plain meat, and very little of " that; he drinks no thin wines, and never ſits up " late, for he has his full doſe by eleven.

" Colonel Culverin is a brave old experienced of- " ficer, though but a lieutenant-colonel of foot. Be- " tween you and me, he has had great injuſtice done " him, and is now commanded by many, who were " not born when he came firſt into the army. He " has ſerved in Ireland, Minorca, and Gibraltar, and " would have been in all the late battles in Flanders,

" had the regiment been ordered there. It is a
" pleasure to hear him talk of war. He is the best-
" natured man alive, but a little too jealous of his
" honor, and too apt to be in a passion; but that is
" soon over, and then he is sorry for it. I fear he
" is dropsical, which I impute to his drinking your
" champains and burgundies. He got that ill habit
" abroad.

" Sir George Pyant is well born, has a genteel
" fortune, keeps the very best company, and is to
" be sure one of the best-bred men alive: he is so
" good-natured, that he seems to have no will of
" his own. He will drink as little or as much as
" you please, and no matter of what. He has been
" a mighty man with the ladies formerly, and loves
" the crack of the whip still. He is our news-
" monger; for, being a gentleman of the privy-
" chamber, he goes to court every day, and conse-
" quently knows pretty well what is going forward
" there. Poor gentleman! I fear we shall not keep
" him long; for he seems far gone in a consump-
" tion, though the doctors say it is only a nervous
" atrophy.

" Will Sitfast is the best-natured fellow living,
" and an excellent companion, though he seldom
" speaks; but he is no flincher, and sits every man's
" hand out at the club. He is a very good scholar,
" and can write very pretty Latin verses. I doubt
" he is in a declining way; for a paralitical stroke
" has lately twitched up one side of his mouth so,
" that he is now obliged to take his wine diagonally.

" However,

" However, he keeps up his ſpirits bravely, and " never ſhams his glaſs.

" Doctor Carbuncle is an honeſt, jolly, merry par- " ſon, well affected to the government, and much " of a gentleman. He is the life of our club, in- " ſtead of being the leaſt reſtraint upon it. He is an " admirable ſcholar, and I really believe has all " Horace by heart; I know he has him always in his " pocket. His red face, inflamed noſe, and ſwelled " legs, make him generally thought a hard drinker " by thoſe who do not know him; but I muſt do " him the juſtice to ſay, that I never ſaw him diſ- " guiſed with liquor in my life. It is true, he is a " very large man, and can hold a great deal, which " makes the colonel call him pleaſantly enough *a* " *veſſel of election.*

" The laſt and leaſt," concluded my friend, " is " your humble ſervant ſuch as I am; and, if you " pleaſe, we will go and walk in the park till din- " ner-time." I agreed, and we ſet out together. But here the reader will perhaps expect that I ſhould let him walk on a little, while I give his character. We were of the ſame year of St. John's college in Cambridge: he was a younger brother of a good family, was bred to the church, and had juſt got a fellowſhip in the college, when, his elder brother dying, he ſucceeded to an eaſy fortune, and reſolved to make himſelf eaſy with it, that is, to do nothing. As he had reſided long in college, he had contracted all the habits and prejudices, the lazineſs, the ſoaking, the pride, and the pedantry of the cloyſter, which after a certain time are never to be rubbed off.

He conſidered the critical knowledge of the Greek and Latin words as the utmoſt effort of the human underſtanding, and a glaſs of good wine in good company as the higheſt pitch of human felicity. Accordingly he paſſes his mornings in reading the claſſics, moſt of which he has long had by heart, and his evenings in drinking his glaſs of good wine, which, by frequent filling, amounts at leaſt to two, and often to three bottles a day. I muſt not omit mentioning that my friend is tormented with the ſtone, which misfortune he imputes to his having once drunk water for a month, by the preſcription of the late doctor Cheyne, and by no means to at leaſt two quarts of claret a day, for theſe laſt thirty years. To return to my friend: "I am very much "miſtaken," ſaid he, as we were walking in the park, "if you do not thank me for procuring you "this day's entertainment; for a ſet of worthier gen- "tlemen, to be ſure, never lived." "I make no "doubt of it," ſaid I, "and am therefore the more "concerned, when I reflect, that this club of worthy "gentlemen might, by your own account, be not im- "properly called an hoſpital of incurables, as there "is not one among them, who does not labor under "ſome chronical and mortal diſtemper." "I ſee what "you would be at," anſwered my friend; "you "would inſinuate that it is all owing to wine: but "let me aſſure you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that wine, eſ- "pecially claret, if neat and good, can hurt no man." I did not reply to this aphoriſm of my friend's, which I knew would draw on too long a diſcuſſion, eſpecially as we were juſt going into the club-room,

where,

where I took it for granted that it was one of the great conſtitutional principles. The account of this modern Sympoſion ſhall be the ſubject of my next paper.

XXIX.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, Sept. 26, 1754. N° 91.

MY friend preſented me to the company, in what he thought the moſt obliging manner; but which, I confeſs, put me a little out of countenance. "Give me leave, gentlemen," ſaid he, "to preſent "to you my old friend Mr. Fitz-Adam, the inge-"nious author of the World." The word *author* inſtantly excited the attention of the whole company, and drew all their eyes upon me: for people, who are not apt to write themſelves, have a ſtrange curioſity to ſee a live author. The gentlemen received me in common with thoſe geſtures that intimate welcome; and I on my part reſpectfully muttered ſome of thoſe nothings, which ſtand inſtead of the ſomething one ſhould ſay, and perhaps do full as well.

The weather being hot, the gentlemen were refreſhing themſelves before dinner, with what they called *a cool tankard*; in which they ſucceſſively drank to me. When it came to my turn, I thought I could not decently decline drinking the gentlemen's healths, which I did aggregately: but how was I ſurprized, when

upon the firſt taſte I diſcovered that this cooling and refreſhing draught was compoſed of the ſtrongeſt mountain wine, lowered indeed with a very little lemon and water, but then heightened again by a quantity of thoſe comfortable aromatics, nutmeg and ginger! Dinner, which had been called for more than once with ſome impatience, was at laſt brought up, upon the colonel's threatening perdition to the maſter and all the waiters of the houſe, if it was delayed two minutes longer. We ſat down without ceremony; and we were no ſooner ſat down, than every body, except myſelf, drank every body's health, which made a tumultuous kind of noiſe. I obſerved with ſurprize, that the common quantity of wine was put into glaſſes of an immenſe ſize and weight; but my ſurprize ceaſed when I ſaw the tremulous hands that took them, and for which I ſuppoſed they were intended as ballaſt. But even this precaution did not protect the noſe of doctor Carbuncle from a ſevere ſhock, in his attempt to hit his mouth. The colonel, who obſerved this accident, cried out pleaſantly, "Why, "doctor, I find you are but a bad engineer. While "you aim at your mouth, you will never hit it, take "my word for it. A floating battery, to hit the "mark, muſt be pointed ſomething above, or below "it. If you would hit your mouth, direct your four-"pounder at your forehead, or your chin." The doctor good-humoredly thanked the colonel for the hint, and promiſed him to communicate it to his friends at Oxford, where he owned, that he had ſeen many a good glaſs of port ſpilt for want of it. Sir Tunbelly almoſt ſmiled, ſir George laughed, and

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the whole company, some how or other, applauded this elegant piece of raillery. But alas, things soon took a less pleasant turn; for an enormous buttock of boiled salt beef, which had succeeded the soupe, proved not to be sufficiently corned for sir Tunbelly, who had bespoke it, and at the same time lord Feeble took a dislike to the claret, which he affirmed not to be the same which they had drank the day before; it had not "silkiness, went rough "off the tongue," and his lordship shrewdly suspected that it was mixed with "Benecarlo, or some of those "black wines." This was a common cause, and excited universal attention. The whole company tasted it seriously, and every one found a different fault with it. The master of the house was immediately sent for up, examined, and treated as a criminal. Sir Tunbelly reproached him with the freshness of the beef, while at the same time all the others fell upon him for the badness of his wine, telling him that it was not fit usage for such good customers as they were, and, in fine, threatening him with a migration of the club to some other house. The criminal laid the blame of the beef's not being corned enough upon his cook, whom he promised to turn away, and attested heaven and earth, that the wine was the very same which they had all approved of the day before, and, as he had a soul to be saved, was true Chateau Margoux. "Chateau devil!" said the colonel with warmth, "it is your d—d rough chaos * "wine." Will Sitfast, who thought himself obliged to articulate upon this occasion, said, he was not

* Cahors.

ſure it was a mixed wine, but that indeed it drank *down*. "If that is all," interrupted the doctor, "let us even drink it *up* then; or, if that will not do, "ſince we cannot have the true *Falernum*, let us take "up for once with the *vile Sabinum*. What ſay you, "gentlemen, to good honeſt port, which I am con- "vinced is a much wholeſomer ſtomach wine?" My friend, who in his heart loves port better than any other wine in the world, willingly ſeconded the doctor's motion, and ſpoke very favourably of your *Portingal* wines in general, if neat. Upon this, ſome was immediately brought up, which I obſerved my friend and the doctor ſtuck to the whole evening. I could not help aſking the doctor, if he really preferred port to lighter wines? To which he anſwered, "You know, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that uſe is ſecond na- "ture, and port is in a manner mother's milk to me; "for it is what my *Alma Mater* ſuckles all her nu- "merous progeny with." I ſilently aſſented to the doctor's account, which I was convinced was a true one, and then attended to the judicious animadverſions of the other gentlemen upon the claret, which were ſtill continued, though at the ſame time they continued to drink it. I hinted my ſurprize at this to ſir Tunbelly, who gravely anſwered me, and in a moving way, "Why what can we do?" "Not "drink it," replied I, "ſince it is not good." "But "what will you have us do? and how ſhall we paſs "the evening?" rejoined the baronet. "One cannot "go home at five o'clock." "That depends upon "a great deal of uſe," ſaid I. "It may be ſo, to a "certain degree," ſaid the doctor. "But give me

"leave

" leave to ask you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you, who drink " nothing but water, and live much at home, how " do you keep up your spirits?" " Why, doctor," said I, " as I never lowered my spirits by strong li- " quors, I do not want to raise them." Here we were interrupted by the colonel's raising his voice and indignation against the burgundy and the champain, swearing that the former was ropy, and the latter upon the fret, and not without some suspicion of cyder and sugar-candy; notwithstanding which, he drank, in a bumper of it, " Confusion to the town " of Bristol and the bottle-act." It was a shame, he said, that gentlemen could have no good burgundies and champains, for the sake of some increase of the revenue, the manufacture of glass-bottles, and such sort of stuff. Sir George confirmed the same, adding that it was scandalous; and the whole company agreed, that the new parliament would certainly repeal so absurd an act the very first session; but, if they did not, they hoped they would receive instructions to that purpose from their constituents. " To " be sure," said the colonel. " What a d—d rout " they made about the repeal of the Jew-bill, for " which nobody cared one farthing! But, by the " way," continued he, " I think every body has done " eating, and therefore had not we better have the " dinner taken away, and the wine set upon the " table?" To this the company gave an unanimous aye. While this was doing, I asked my friend, with seeming seriousness, whether no part of the dinner was to be served up again, when the wine should be set upon the table? He seemed surprized at my

question,

queſtion, and aſked me if I was hungry? To which I anſwered, no; but aſked him in my turn if he was dry? To which he alſo anſwered, no. "Then pray," replied I, "why not as well eat without being hungry, "as drink without being dry?" My friend was ſo ſtunned with this, that he attempted no reply, but ſtared at me with as much aſtoniſhment, as he would have done at my great anceſtor Adam, in his primitive ſtate of nature.

The cloth was now taken away, and the bottles, glaſſes, and diſhclouts, put upon the table, when Will Sitfaſt, who I found was a perpetual toaſt maker, took the chair, of courſe, as the man of application to buſineſs. He began the king's health in a bumper, which circulated in the ſame manner, not without ſome nice examinations of the chairman as to daylight. The bottle ſtanding by me, I was called upon by the chairman, who added, that though a water-drinker, he hoped I would not refuſe that health in wine. I begged to be excuſed, and told him that I never drank his majeſty's health at all, though no one of his ſubjects wiſhed it more heartily than I did; that hitherto it had not appeared to me, that there could be the leaſt relation between the wine I drank, and the king's ſtate of health, and that, till I was convinced that impairing my own health would improve his Majeſty's, I was reſolved to preſerve the uſe of my faculties and my limbs, to employ both in his ſervice if he could ever have occaſion for them. I had foreſeen the conſequences of this refuſal, and, though my friend had anſwered for my principles, I eaſily diſcovered an air of ſuſpicion

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in the countenances of the company, and I overheard the colonel whiſper to lord Feeble, "This author is "a very odd dog!"

My friend was aſhamed of me; but however, to help me off as well as he could, he ſaid to me aloud, "Mr. Fitz-Adam, this is one of thoſe ſingularities "which you have contracted by living ſo much "alone." From this moment, the company gave me up to my oddneſſes, and took no farther notice of me. I leaned ſilently upon the table, waiting for, though, to ſay the truth, without expecting, ſome of that feſtal gaiety, that urbanity, and that elegant mirth, of which my friend had promiſed ſo large a ſhare; inſtead of all which, the converſation ran chiefly into narrative, and grew duller and duller with every bottle. Lord Feeble recounted his former atchievements in love and wine; the colonel complained, though with dignity, of hardſhips and injuſtice; ſir George hinted at ſome important diſcoveries, which he had made that day at court, but cautiouſly avoided naming names; ſir Tunbelly ſlept between glaſs and glaſs; the doctor and my friend talked over college matters, and quoted Latin; and our worthy preſident applied himſelf wholly to buſineſs, never ſpeaking but to order, as, "Sir, the "bottle ſtands with you; ſir, you are to name a toaſt; "that has been drunk already; here, more claret!" &c. In the height of all this convivial pleaſantry, which I plainly ſaw was come to its zenith, I ſtole away at about nine o'clock, and went home; where reflections upon the entertainment of the day crowded into my mind, and may perhaps be the ſubject of ſome future paper.

XXX.

XXX.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, Oct. 3, 1754. N° 92.

THE entertainment, I do not say the diversion, which I mentioned in my last paper, tumbled my imagination to such a degree, and suggested such a variety of indistinct ideas to my mind, that, notwithstanding all the pains I took to sort and digest, I could not reduce, them to method. I shall therefore throw them out in this paper without order, and just as they occurred to me.

When I considered that, perhaps, two millions of my fellow-subjects passed two parts in three of their lives in the very same manner in which the worthy members of my friend's club passed theirs, I was at a loss to discover that attractive, irresistible, and invisible charm, for I confess I saw none, to which they so deliberately and assiduously sacrificed their time, their health, and their reason; till, dipping accidentally into monsieur Pascal, I read, upon the subject of hunting, the following passage. "What, unless to drown thought," says that excellent writer, "can make men throw away so much time upon a "silly animal, which they may buy much cheaper in "the market? It hinders us from looking into ourselves, which is a view we cannot bear." That this is often one motive, and sometimes the only one, of hunting, I can easily believe. But then it must be allowed too, that if the jolly sportsman, who thus vigorously

vigorouſly runs away from himſelf, does not break his neck in his flight, he improves his health, at leaſt, by his exerciſe. But what other motive can poſſibly be aſſigned for the ſoaker's daily and ſeriouſly ſwallowing his own deſtruction, except that of "drowning thought, and hindering him from look-"ing into himſelf, which is a view he cannot bear?"

Unhappy the man who cannot willingly and frequently converſe with himſelf; but miſerable in the higheſt degree is the man who dares not! In one of theſe predicaments muſt that man be, who ſoaks and ſleeps away his whole life. Either tired of himſelf for want of any reflections at all, or dreading himſelf for fear of the moſt tormenting ones, he flies, for refuge from his folly or his guilt, to the company of his fellow-ſufferers, and to the intoxication of ſtrong liquors.

Archbiſhop Tillotſon aſſerts, and very truly, that no man can plead, in defence of ſwearing, that he was born of a ſwearing conſtitution. I believe the ſame thing may with equal truth be affirmed of drinking. No man is born a drinker. Drinking is an acquired, not a natural, vice. The child, when he firſt taſtes ſtrong liquors, rejects them with evident ſigns of diſguſt, but is inſenſibly brought firſt to bear, and then perhaps to like, them, by the folly of his parents, who promiſe them as an encouragement, and give them as a reward.

When the coroner's inqueſt examines the body of one of thoſe unhappy wretches, who drown themſelves in a pond or river, with commonly a proviſion of lead in their pockets to make the work the ſurer,

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the verdict is either *felo de se*, or lunatic. Is it then the water, or the suddenness of the plunge, that constitutes either the madness or the guilt of the act? is there any difference between a water and a wine suicide? If there be, it is evidently in favour of the former, which is never so deliberate and premeditated as the latter. The soaker jogs on with a gentler pace indeed, but to as sure and certain destruction, and, as a proof of his intention, would, I believe, upon examination, be generally found to have a good deal of lead about him too. He cannot alledge in his defence, that he has not warning, since he daily sees, in the chronical distempers of all his fellow-soakers, the fatal effects of that slow poison which he so greedily guzzles; for I defy all those honest gentlemen, that is, all the hard drinkers in England, a numerous body I doubt, to produce one single instance of a soaker, whose health and faculties are not visibly impaired by drinking. Some indeed, born much stronger than others, hold it out longer, and are absurdly quoted as living proofs even of the salutary effects of drinking; but though they have not yet any of the most distinguished characteristics of their profession about them, though they have not yet lost one half of themselves by a *hemiplegia*, nor the use of all their limbs by the gout, though they are but moderately mangy, and though the impending dropsy may not yet appear, I will venture to affirm, that the health they boast of is at best but an awkward state between sickness and health: if they are not actually sick, they are not actively well, and you will always find some complaint or other inadvertently dropped

from

from the triumphant ſoaker, within half an hour after he has aſſured you that he is *neither ſick nor ſorry*. My wife, who is a little ſuperſtitious, and perhaps too apt to point out and interpret judgements, otherwiſe an excellent woman, firmly believes, that the dropſy, of which moſt ſoakers finally die, is a manifeſt and juſt judgement upon them; the wine they ſo much loved being turned into water, and themſelves drowned at laſt in the element they ſo much abhorred.

A rational and ſober man, invited by the wit and gaiety of good company, and hurried away by an uncommon flow of ſpirits, may happen to drink too much, and perhaps accidentally to get drunk; but then theſe ſallies will be ſhort, and not frequent; whereas the ſoaker is an utter ſtranger to wit and mirth, and no friend to either.

His buſineſs is ſerious, and he applies himſelf ſeriouſly to it; he ſteadily purſues the numbing, ſtupifying, and petrifying, not the animating and exhilarating, qualities of the wine. Gallons of the Nepenthé would be loſt upon him. The more he drinks, the duller he grows; his politics become more obſcure, and his narratives more tedious and leſs intelligible; till at laſt *maudlin*, he employs what little articulation he has left, in relating his doleful tale to an inſenſible audience. I fear my countrymen have been too long noted for this manner of drinking, ſince a very old and eminent French hiſtorian *, ſpeaking of the Engliſh, who were then in poſſeſſion of Aquitain, the promiſed land of claret, ſays, *Ils ſe*

* Froiſſard.

ſaoulerent

ſaoulerent grandement, et ſe divertirent moult triſtement à la mode de leur païs.

A very ſkilful ſurgeon of my acquaintance aſſured me, that, having opened the body of a SOAKER, who died of an apoplexy, he had found all the finer tubes and veſſels plugged up with the tartar of the wine he had ſwallowed, ſo as to render the circulation of the blood abſolutely impoſſible, and the folds of the ſtomach ſo ſtiffened with it, that it could not perform its functions. He compared the body of the deceaſed to a ſiphon, ſo choaked up with the tartar and dregs of the wine that had run through it, as to be impervious. I adopted this image, which ſeemed to me a juſt one, and I ſhall for the future typify the SOAKER by the ſiphon, ſuction being equally the buſineſs of both.

An object, viewed at once, and in its full extent, will ſometimes ſtrike the mind, when the ſeveral parts and gradations of it, ſeparately ſeen, would be but little attended to. I ſhall therefore here preſent the ſociety of ſiphons with a calculation, of which they cannot diſpute the truth, and will not, I believe, deny the moderation; and yet perhaps they will be ſurprized when they ſee the groſs ſums of the wine they ſuck, of the money they pay for it, and of the time they loſe, in the courſe of ſeven years only.

I reckon that I put a ſtaunch ſiphon very low, when I put him only at two bottles a day, one with another. This in ſeven years amounts to four thouſand four hundred and ten bottles *, which makes twenty hogſheads and ſeventy bottles.

* This calculation is defective, the number of bottles drank in that time amounting to 5110.

Suppoſing this quantity to coſt only four ſhillings a bottle, which I take to be the loweſt price of claret, the ſum amounts to eight hundred and eighty-two pounds.

Allowing every ſiphon but ſix hours a day to ſuck his two bottles in, which is a ſhort allowance, that time amounts to ſix hundred and thirty-eight days, eighteen hours; one full quarter of his life, for the above-mentioned ſeven years. Can any rational being coolly conſider theſe three groſs ſums, of wine, and conſequently diſtempers ſwallowed, of money laviſhed, and time loſt, without ſhame, regret, and a reſolution of reformation?

I am well aware that the numerous ſociety of ſiphons will ſay, like ſir Tunbelly, "What would "this fellow have us do?" To which I am at no loſs for an anſwer. Do any thing elſe. Preſerve and improve that reaſon, which was given you to be your guide through this world, and to a better. Attend to, and diſcharge, your religious, your moral, and your ſocial duties. Theſe are occupations worthy of a rational being, they will agreeably and uſefully employ your time, and will baniſh from your breaſts that tireſome liſtleſſneſs, or thoſe tormenting thoughts, from which you endeavour, though in vain, to fly. Is your retroſpect uncomfortable? Exert yourſelves in time to make your proſpect better; and let the former ſerve as a back-ground to the latter. Cultivate and improve your minds, according to your ſeveral educations and capacities. There are ſeveral uſeful books ſuited to them all. True religion and virtue give a chearful and happy turn to

the mind, admit of all true pleasures, and even procure the truest.

Cantabrigius drinks nothing but water, and rides more miles in a year than the keenest sportsman, and with almost equal velocity. The former keeps his head clear, the latter his body in health. It is not from himself that he runs, but to his acquaintance, a synonymous term for his friends. Internally safe, he seeks no sanctuary from himself, no intoxication for his mind. His penetration makes him discover and divert himself with the follies of mankind, which his wit enables him to expose with the truest ridicule, though always without personal offence. Chearful abroad, because happy at home; and thus happy, because virtuous!

XXXI.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Nov. 14, 1754. N° 98.

IT gives me great pleasure that I am able, in this day's paper, to congratulate the polite part of my fellow-subjects of both sexes, upon the splendid revival of that most rational entertainment, an Italian opera. Of late years it had seemed to sicken, so that I greatly feared that the unsuccessful efforts, which it made from time to time, were its convulsive and expiring pangs. But it now appears, and indeed much to the honor of this country, that we have still

too

too many protectors and protectreſſes of the liberal arts, to ſuffer that of muſic, the moſt liberal of them all, to ſink for want of due encouragement.

I am ſenſible that Italian operas have frequently been the objects of the ridicule of many of our greateſt wits; and, viewed in one light only, perhaps not without ſome reaſon. But, as I conſider all public diverſions ſingly with regard to the effects which they may have upon the morals and manners of the public, I confeſs I reſpect the Italian operas, as the moſt innocent of any.

The ſevere monſieur Boileau juſtly condemns the French operas, the morals of which he calls,

" ——— Morale lubrique
" Que Lully rechauffa des ſons de ſa muſique *."

But then it muſt be conſidered that French operas are always in French, and conſequently may be underſtood by many French people, and that they are fine dramatic tragedies, adorned with all the graces of poetry and harmony of ſounds, and may probably inſpire too tender, if not voluptuous, ſentiments. Can the Italian opera be accuſed of any thing of this kind? Certainly not. Were what is called the poetry of it intelligible in itſelf, it would not be underſtood by one in fifty of a Britiſh audience: but I believe that even an Italian of common candor will confeſs, that he does not underſtand one word of it. It is not the intention of the thing; for, ſhould the ingenious author of the words, by miſtake, put any

* Boileau Sat. x. l. 141, 142.
Leſſons of licentiouſneſs, which Lully (the founder of the French operas) animated with the ſounds of his muſic.

meaning into them, he would, to a certain degree, check and cramp the genius of the compoſer of the muſic, who perhaps might think himſelf obliged to adapt his ſounds to the ſenſe: whereas now he is at liberty to ſcatter indiſcriminately, among the kings, queens, heroes, and heroines, his ADAGIOS, his ALLEGROS, his PATHETICS, his CHROMATICS, and his JIGGS. It would alſo have been a reſtraint upon the actors and actreſſes, who might poſſibly have attempted to form their action upon the meaning of their parts; but as it is, if they do but ſeem, by turns, to be angry and ſorry in the two firſt acts, and very merry in the laſt ſcene of the laſt, they are ſure to meet with the deſerved applauſe.

Signior Metaſtaſio attempted ſome time ago a very dangerous innovation. He tried gently to throw ſome ſenſe into his operas; but it did not take: the conſequences were obvious; and nobody knew where they would ſtop.

The whole ſkill and judgment of the poet now conſiſts in ſelecting about a hundred words, for the opera vocabulary does not exceed that number, that terminate in liquids and vowels, and rhyme to each other. Theſe words excite ideas in the hearer, though they were not the reſult of any in the poet. Thus the word *tortorella*, ſtretched out to a quaver of a quarter of an hour, excites in us the ideas of tender and faithful love; but if it is ſucceeded by *navicella*, that ſoothing idea gives way to the boiſterous and horrid one of a ſkiff, that is, a heart, toſſed by the winds and waves upon the main ocean of love. The handcuffs and fetters in which the hero commonly

monly appears, at the end of the second, or beginning of the third act, indicate captivity; and when properly jingled to a pathetic piece of recitativo upon *questi ceppi*, are really very moving, and inspire a love of liberty. Can any thing be more innocent, or more moral, than this musical pantomime, in which there is not one indecent word or action, but where, on the contrary, the most generous sentiments are, however imperfectly, pointed out and inculcated?

I was once indeed afraid, that the licentiousness of the times had infected even the opera: for in that of Alexander, the hero going into the heroine's apartment, found her taking a nap in an easy-chair. Tempted by so much beauty, and invited by so favourable an opportunity, he gently approached, and *stole a pair of gloves*. I confess, I dreaded the consequences of this bold step; and the more so, as it was taken by the celebrated signior Senesino. But all went off very well; for the hero contented himself with giving the good company a song, in which he declared the lips he had just kissed were a couple of rubies.

Another good effect of the Italian operas is, that they contribute extremely to the keeping of good hours; the whole audience, though passionately fond of music, being so tired before they are half, and so sleepy before they are quite, done, that they make the best of their way home, too drowsy to enter upon fresh spirits that night.

Having thus rescued these excellent musical dramas from the unjust ridicule, which some people of vulgar and illiberal tastes have endeavoured to throw upon

them, I must proceed, and do justice to the virtuosos and virtuosas who perform them. But, I believe, it will be necessary for me to premise, for the sake of many of my English readers, that VIRTÙ among the modern Italians signifies nothing less than what VIRTUS did among the antient ones, or what VIRTUE signifies among us; on the contrary, I might say that it signifies almost every thing else. Consequently those respectable titles of virtuoso and virtuosa have not the least relation to the moral characters of the parties. They mean only that those persons, endowed some by nature, and some by art, with good voices, have from their infancy devoted their time and labor to the various combinations of seven notes: a study that must unquestionably have formed their minds, enlarged their notions, and have rendered them most agreeable and instructive companions; and as such, I observe that they are justly solicited, received, and cherished, by people of the first distinction.

As these illustrious personages come over here with no sordid view of profit, but merely *per far piacer a la nobilita Ingleſe*, that is, to oblige the English nobility, they are exceedingly good and condescending to such of the said English nobility, and even gentry, as are desirous to contract an intimacy with them. They will, for a word's speaking, dine, sup, or pass the whole day, with people of a certain condition, and perhaps sing or play, if civilly requested. Nay, I have known many of them so good as to pass two or three months of the summer at the country seats of some of their noble friends, and thereby mitigate the horrors of the country and mansion-house, to my lady

and

and her daughters. I have been assured by many of their chief patrons and patronesses, that they are all *the best creatures in the world*; and from the time of signor Cavaliero Nicolini down to this day, I have constantly heard the several great performers, such as Farinelli, Carestini, Monticelli, Gaffarielli, as well as the signore Cuzzoni, Faustina, &c. much more praised for their affability, the gentleness of their manners, and all the good qualities of the head and heart, than for either their musical skill or execution. I have even known these their social virtues lay their protectors and protectresses under great difficulties, how to reward such distinguished merit. But benefit-nights luckily came in to their assistance, and gave them an opportunity of insinuating, with all due regard, into the hands of the performer, in lieu of a ticket, a considerable bank-bill, a gold snuff-box, a diamond ring, or some such trifle. It is to be hoped, that the illustrious signor Farinelli has not yet forgot the many instances he experienced of British munificence: for it is certain that many private families *still remember them.*

All this is very well; and I greatly approve of it, as I am of tolerating and naturalizing principles. But however, as the best things may admit of improvement by certain modifications, I shall now suggest two; the one of a public, the other of a private, nature. I would by all means welcome these respectable guests, but I would by no means part with them, as is too soon and too often the case.

Some of them, when they have got ten or fifteen thousand pounds here, unkindly withdraw them-

ſelves, and purchaſe eſtates in land in their own countries; and others are ſeduced from us, by the preſſing invitations of ſome great potentate to come over to ſuperintend his pleaſures, and to take a ſhare in his counſels. This is not only a great loſs to their particular friends, the nobility and gentry, but to the nation in general, by turning the balance of our muſical commerce conſiderably againſt us. I would therefore humbly propoſe, that immediately upon the arrival of theſe valuable ſtrangers, a writ of *ne exeat regnum* ſhould be iſſued to keep them here. The other modification, which I beg leave to hint at only, it being of a private nature, is, that no virtuoſo, whoſe voice is below a *contralto*, ſhall be taken to the country-ſeat of any family whatſoever; much leſs any ſtrapping fiddler, baſſoon, or baſs viol, who does not even pretend to ſing, or, if he does, ſings a rough tenor or a tremendous baſs. The conſequences may be ſerious, but at leaſt the appearances are not edifying.

XXXII.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Nov. 28, 1754. N° 100.

I HEARD the other day, with great pleaſure, from my worthy friend Mr. Dodſley, that Mr. Johnſon's Engliſh dictionary, with a grammar and hiſtory of our language prefixed, will be publiſhed this winter, in two large volumes in folio.

I had

I had long lamented, that we had no lawful ſtandard of our language ſet up, for thoſe to repair to, who might chuſe to ſpeak and write it grammatically and correctly: and I have as long wiſhed that either ſome one perſon of diſtinguiſhed abilities would undertake the work ſingly, or that a certain number of gentlemen would form themſelves, or be formed by the government, into a ſociety for that purpoſe. The late ingenious doctor Swift propoſed a plan of this nature to his friend, as he thought him, the lord treaſurer Oxford, but without ſucceſs; preciſion and perſpicuity not being in general the favourite objects of miniſters, and perhaps ſtill leſs ſo of that miniſter than any other.

Many people have imagined, that ſo extenſive a work would have been beſt formed by numbers of perſons, who ſhould have taken their ſeveral departments, of examining, ſifting, winnowing (I borrow this image from the Italian *Cruſca*), purifying, and finally fixing our language, by incorporating their reſpective funds into one joint ſtock. But, whether this opinion be true or falſe, I think the public in general, and the republic of letters in particular, greatly obliged to Mr. Johnſon, for having undertaken and executed ſo great and deſireable a work. Perfection is not to be expected from man; but, if we are to judge by the various works of Mr. Johnſon, already publiſhed, we have good reaſon to believe, that he will bring this as near to perfection, as any one man could do. The plan of it, which he publiſhed ſome years ago, ſeems to me to be a proof of it. Nothing can be more rationally imagined,

imagined, or more accurately and elegantly expreſſed. I therefore recommend the previous peruſal of it to all thoſe, who intend to buy the dictionary, and who, I ſuppoſe, are all thoſe who can afford it.

The celebrated dictionaries of the Florentine and French academies owe their preſent ſize and perfection to very ſmall beginnings. Some private gentlemen at Florence, and ſome at Paris, had met at each other's houſes, to talk over and conſider their reſpective languages: upon which they publiſhed ſome ſhort eſſays, which eſſays were the embryos of thoſe perfect productions, that now do ſo much honor to the two nations. Even Spain, which ſeems not to be the ſoil where, of late at leaſt, letters have either proſpered or been cultivated, has produced a dictionary, and a good one too, of the Spaniſh language, in ſix large volumes in folio.

I cannot help thinking it a ſort of diſgrace to our nation, that hitherto we have had no ſuch ſtandard of our language; our dictionaries at preſent being more properly, what our neighbours the Dutch and the Germans call theirs, word-books, than dictionaries in the ſuperior ſenſe of that title. All words, good and bad, are there jumbled indiſcriminately together, inſomuch that the injudicious reader may ſpeak, and write, as inelegantly, improperly, and vulgarly, as he pleaſes, by and with the authority of one or other of our word-books.

It muſt be owned that our language is at preſent in a ſtate of anarchy; and hitherto, perhaps, it may not have been the worſe for it. During our free and open trade, many words and expreſſions have been

been imported, adopted, and naturalized, from other languages, which have greatly enriched our own. Let it ſtill preſerve what real ſtrength and beauty it may have borrowed from others; but let it not, like the Tarpeian maid, be overwhelmed and cruſhed by unneceſſary foreign ornaments. The time for diſcrimination ſeems to be now come. Toleration, adoption, and naturalization, have run their lengths. Good order and authority are now neceſſary. But where ſhall we find them, and at the ſame time the obedience due to them? We muſt have recourſe to the old Roman expedient in times of confuſion, and chuſe a dictator. Upon this principle, I give my vote for Mr. Johnſon to fill that great and arduous poſt. And I hereby declare, that I make a total ſurrender of all my rights and privileges in the Engliſh language, as a free-born Britiſh ſubject, to the ſaid Mr. Johnſon, during the term of his dictatorſhip. Nay more; I will not only obey him, like an old Roman, as my dictator, but, like a modern Roman, I will implicitly believe in him as my pope, and hold him to be infallible while in the chair; but no longer. More than this he cannot well require; for I preſume that obedience can never be expected, when there is neither terror to enforce, nor intereſt to invite it.

I confeſs that I have ſo much honeſt Engliſh pride, or perhaps prejudice, about me, as to think myſelf more conſiderable for whatever contributes to the honor, the advantage, or the ornament, of my native country. I have therefore a ſenſible pleaſure in reflecting upon the rapid progreſs, which our language

has

has lately made, and ſtill continues to make, all over Europe. It is frequently ſpoken, and almoſt univerſally underſtood, in Holland; it is kindly entertained as a relation in the moſt civilized parts of Germany; and it is ſtudied as a learned language, though yet little ſpoke, by all thoſe in France and Italy, who either have, or pretend to have, any learning.

The ſpreading the French language over moſt parts of Europe, to the degree of making it almoſt an univerſal one, was always reckoned among the glories of the reign of Lewis the fourteenth. But be it remembered, that the ſucceſs of his arms firſt opened the way to it; though at the ſame time it muſt be owned, that a great number of moſt excellent authors, who flouriſhed in his time, added ſtrength and velocity to its progreſs. Whereas our language has made its way ſingly by its own weight and merit, under the conduct of thoſe leaders, Shakeſpear, Bacon, Milton, Locke, Newton, Swift, Pope, Addiſon, &c. A nobler ſort of conqueſt, and a far more glorious triumph, ſince graced by none but willing captives!

Theſe authors, though for the moſt part but indifferently tranſlated into foreign languages, gave other nations a ſample of the Britiſh genius. The copies, imperfect as they were, pleaſed and excited a general deſire of ſeeing the originals; and both our authors and our language ſoon became claſſical.

But a grammar, a dictionary, and a hiſtory of our language, through its ſeveral ſtages, were ſtill wanting at home, and importunately called for from abroad. Mr. Johnſon's labors will now, and, I dare ſay, very fully,

fully, ſupply that want, and greatly contribute to the farther ſpreading of our language in other countries. Learners were diſcouraged by finding no ſtandard to reſort to, and conſequently thought it incapable of any. They will be undeceived and encouraged.

There are many hints and conſiderations relative to our language, which I ſhould have taken the liberty of ſuggeſting to Mr. Johnſon, had I not been convinced that they have equally occurred to him: but there is one, and a very material one it is, to which perhaps he may not have given all the neceſſary attention. I mean the genteeler part of our language, which owes both its riſe and progreſs to my fair countrywomen, whoſe natural turn is more to the copiouſneſs, than to the correction of diction. I would not adviſe him to be raſh enough to proſcribe any of thoſe happy redundancies, and luxuriancies of expreſſion, with which they have enriched our language. They willingly inflict fetters, but very unwillingly ſubmit to wear them. In this caſe the taſk will be ſo difficult, that I deſign, as a common friend, to propoſe in ſome future paper, the means which appear to me the moſt likely to reconcile matters.

P. S. I hope that none of my courteous readers will upon this occaſion be ſo uncourteous, as to ſuſpect me of being a hired and intereſted puff of this work; for I moſt ſolemnly proteſt, that neither Mr. Johnſon, nor any perſon employed by him, nor any bookſeller or bookſellers concerned in the ſucceſs of it, have ever offered me the uſual compliment of a pair of gloves or a bottle of wine: nor has even

Mr.

Mr. Dodsley, though my publisher, and, as I am informed, deeply interested in the sale of this dictionary, so much as invited me to take a bit of mutton with him.

XXXIII.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, Dec. 5, 1754. N° 101.

WHEN I intimated in my last paper some distrust of Mr. Johnson's complaisance to the fairer part of his readers, it was because I had a greater opinion of his impartiality and severity as a judge, than of his gallantry as a fine gentleman. And indeed I am well aware of the difficulties he would have to encounter, if he attempted to reconcile the polite with the grammatical part of our language. Should he, by an act of power, banish and attaint many of the favourite words and expressions, with which the ladies have so profusely enriched our language, he would excite the indignation of the most formidable, because the most lovely, part of his readers: his dictionary would be condemned as a system of tyranny, and he himself, like the last Tarquin, run the risque of being deposed. So popular and so powerful is the female cause! On the other hand, should he, by an act of grace, admit, legitimate, and incorporate into our language, those words and expressions, which, hastily begot, owe

owe their birth to the incontinency of female eloquence; what ſevere cenſures might he not juſtly apprehend from the learned part of his readers, who do not underſtand complaiſances of that nature!

For my own part, as I am always inclined to plead the cauſe of my fair fellow-ſubjects, I ſhall now take the liberty of laying before Mr. Johnſon thoſe arguments, which upon this occaſion may be urged in their favour, as introductory to the compromiſe which I ſhall humbly offer and conclude with.

Language is indiſputably the more immediate province of the fair ſex: there they ſhine, there they excel. The torrents of their eloquence, eſpecially in the vituperative way, ſtun all oppoſition, and bear away, in one promiſcuous heap, nouns, verbs, moods, and tenſes. If words are wanting, which indeed happens but ſeldom, indignation inſtantly makes new ones; and I have often known four or five ſyllables, that never met one another before, haſtily and fortuitouſly jumbled into ſome word of mighty import.

Nor is the tender part of our language leſs obliged to that ſoft and amiable ſex; their love being at leaſt as productive as their indignation. Should they lament in an involuntary retirement the abſence of the adored object, they give new murmurs to the brook, new ſounds to the echo, and new notes to the plaintive Philomela. But when this happy copiouſneſs flows, as it often does, into gentle numbers, good gods! how is the poetical diction enriched, and the poetical licence extended! Even in common converſation, I never ſee a pretty mouth opening to ſpeak, but I expect, and am ſeldom diſappointed,

ſome

ſome new improvement of our language. I remember many expreſſive words coined in that fair mint. I aſſiſted at the birth of that moſt ſignificant word FLIRTATION, which dropped from the moſt beautiful mouth in the world, and which has ſince received the ſanction of our moſt accurate Laureat in one of his comedies. Some inattentive and undiſcerning people have, I know, taken it to be a term ſynonymous with coquetry; but I lay hold of this opportunity to undeceive them, and eventually to inform Mr. Johnſon, that flirtation is ſhort of coquetry, and intimates only the firſt hints of approximation, which ſubſequent coquetry may reduce to thoſe preliminary articles, that commonly end in a definitive treaty.

I was alſo a witneſs to the riſe and progreſs of that moſt important verb, TO FUZZ; which, if not of legitimate birth, is at leaſt of fair extraction. As I am not ſure that it has yet made its way into Mr. Johnſon's literary retirement, I think myſelf obliged to inform him that it is at preſent the moſt uſeful and the moſt uſed word in our language; ſince it means no leſs than dealing twice together with the ſame pack of cards, for luck's ſake, at whiſt.

Not contented with enriching our language by words abſolutely new, my fair countrywomen have gone ſtill farther, and improved it by the application and extenſion of old ones to various and very different ſignifications. They take a word and change it, like a guinea into ſhillings for pocket-money, to be employed in the ſeveral occaſional purpoſes of the day. For inſtance, the adjective *vaſt* and its adverb *vaſtly* mean any thing, and are the faſhionable words

of

of the moſt faſhionable people. A fine woman, under this head I comprehend all fine gentlemen too, not knowing in truth where to place them properly, is *vaſtly* obliged, or *vaſtly* offended, *vaſtly* glad, or *vaſtly* ſorry. Large objects are *vaſtly* great, ſmall ones are *vaſtly* little; and I had lately the pleaſure to hear a fine woman pronounce, by a happy metonymy, a very ſmall gold ſnuff-box that was produced in company to be *vaſtly* pretty, becauſe it was *vaſtly* little. Mr. Johnſon will do well to conſider ſeriouſly to what degree he will reſtrain the various and extenſive ſignifications of this great word.

Another very material point ſtill remains to be conſidered; I mean the orthography of our language, which is at preſent very various and unſettled.

We have at preſent two very different orthographies, the *pedantic*, and the *polite*; the one founded upon certain dry crabbed rules of etymology and grammar, the other ſingly upon the juſtneſs and delicacy of the ear. I am thoroughly perſuaded that Mr. Johnſon will endeavour to eſtabliſh the former; and I perfectly agree with him, provided it can be quietly brought about. Spelling, as well as muſic, is better performed by book, than merely by the ear, which may be variouſly affected by the ſame ſounds. I therefore moſt earneſtly recommend to my fair countrywomen, and to their faithful or faithleſs ſervants, the fine gentlemen of this realm, to ſurrender, as well for their own private as for the public utility, all their natural rights and privileges of miſ-ſpelling, which they have ſo long enjoyed, and ſo vigorouſly exerted. I have really known very fatal conſequences attend that looſe and

uncertain practice of auricular orthography; of which I shall produce two instances as a sufficient warning.

A very fine gentleman wrote a very harmless innocent letter to a very fine lady, giving an account of some trifling commissions, which he had executed according to her orders. This letter, though directed to the lady, was, by the mistake of a servant, delivered to, and opened by, her husband; who, finding all his attempts to understand it unsuccessful, took it for granted that it was a concerted cypher, under which a criminal correspondence, not much to his own honor or advantage, was secretly carried on. With the letter in his hand, and rage in his heart, he went immediately to his wife, and reproached her in the most injurious terms with her supposed infidelity. The lady, conscious of her own innocence, calmly requested to see the grounds of so unjust an accusation; and, being accustomed to the auricular orthography, made shift to read to her incensed husband the most inoffensive letter that ever was written. The husband was undeceived, or at least wise enough to seem so; for in such cases one must not peremptorily decide. However, as sudden impressions are generally pretty strong, he has been observed to be more suspicious ever since.

The other accident had much worse consequences. Matters were happily brought, between a fine gentleman and a fine lady, to the decisive period of an appointment at a third place. *The place where* is always the lover's business, *the time when* the lady's. Accordingly an impatient and rapturous letter from the lover signified to the lady the house and street

where;

where; to which a tender anſwer from the lady aſſented, and appointed the time *when*. But unfortunately, from the uncertainty of the lover's auricular orthography, the lady miſtook both houſe and ſtreet, was conveyed in a hackney-chair to a wrong one, and in the hurry and agitation, which ladies are ſometimes in upon theſe occaſions, ruſhed into a houſe where ſhe happened to be known, and her intentions conſequently diſcovered. In the mean time the lover paſſed three or four hours at the right place, in the alternate agonies of impatient and diſappointed love, tender fear, and anxious jealouſy.

Such examples really make one tremble; and will, I am convinced, determine my fair fellow-ſubjects and their adherents to adopt, and ſcrupulouſly conform to, Mr. Johnſon's rules of true orthography by book. In return to this conceſſion, I ſeriouſly adviſe him to publiſh, by way of appendix to his great work, a genteel Neological dictionary, containing thoſe polite, though perhaps not ſtrictly grammatical, words and phraſes, commonly uſed, and ſometimes underſtood, by the *beau monde*. By ſuch an act of toleration, who knows but he may, in time, bring them within the pale of the Engliſh language? The beſt Latin dictionaries have commonly a ſhort ſupplemental one annexed, of the obſolete and barbarous Latin words, which pedants ſometimes borrow to ſhew their erudition. Surely then my countrywomen, the enrichers, the patroneſſes, and the harmonizers of our language, deſerve greater indulgence. I muſt alſo hint to Mr. Johnſon, that ſuch a ſmall ſupplemental dictionary will contribute infinitely to

the sale of the great one; and I make no question but that, under the protection of that little work, the great one will be received in the genteelest houses. We shall frequently meet with it in ladies dressing-rooms, lying upon the harpsichord, together with the knotting-bag, and signor Di-Giardino's incomparable concertos; and even sometimes in the powder-rooms of our young nobility, upon the same shelf with their German flute, their powder-mask, and their four-horse-whip.

XXXIV.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, January 2, 1755. N° 105.

AS I am desirous of beginning the new year well, I shall devote this paper to the service of my fair countrywomen, for whom I have so tender a concern, that I examine into their conduct with a kind of parental vigilance and affection. I sincerely wish to approve, but at the same time am determined to admonish and reprimand whenever, for their sakes, I may think it necessary. I will not, as far as in me lies, suffer the errors of their minds to disgrace those beautiful dwellings in which they are lodged; nor will I, on the other hand, silently and quietly allow the affectation and abuse of their persons, to reflect contempt and ridicule upon their understandings.

Native, artless beauty has long been the peculiar distinction of my fair fellow-subjects. Our poets have

long ſung their genuine lilies and roſes, and our painters have long endeavoured, though in vain, to imitate them: beautiful nature mocked all their art. But I am now informed by perſons of unqueſtioned truth and ſagacity, and indeed I have obſerved but too many inſtances of it myſelf, that a great number of thoſe ineſtimable originals, by a ſtrange inverſion of things, give the lie to their poets, and ſervilely copy their painters; degrading and diſguiſing themſelves into worſe copies of bad copies of themſelves. It is even whiſpered about town of that excellent artiſt, Mr. Liotard *, that he lately refuſed a fine woman to draw her picture, alledging that he never copied any body's works but his own and GOD ALMIGHTY'S.

I have taken great pains to inform myſelf of the growth and extent of this heinous crime of ſelf-painting, I had almoſt given it a harder name, and I am ſorry to ſay, that I have found it to be extremely epidemical. The preſent ſtate of it, in its ſeveral degrees, appears to be this.

The inferior claſs of women, who always ape their betters, make uſe of a ſort of rough caſt, little ſuperior to the common lath and plaiſter, which comes very cheap, and can be afforded out of the caſual profits of the evening.

The claſs immediately above theſe, paint occaſionally, either in ſize or oil, which, at ſixpence *per* foot ſquare, comes within a moderate weekly allowance.

* A celebrated limner in crayons, very faithful to nature; who after having travelled in ſeveral parts of the world, and received great encouragement in England, is now retired to his own country Geneva.

The generality of women of fashion make use of a superfine stucco, or plaister of Paris highly glazed, which does not require a daily renewal, and will, with some slight occasional repairs, last as long as their curls, and stand a pretty strong collision.

As for the transcendent and divine powder, with an exquisite varnish superinduced to fix it, it is by no means common, but is reserved for the ladies not only of the first rank, but of the most considerable fortunes; it being so very costly, that few pin-monies can keep a face in it, as a face of condition ought to be kept. Perhaps the same number of pearls *whole*, might be more acceptable to some lovers, than in powder upon the lady's face.

I would now fain undeceive my fair countrywomen of an error, which, gross as it is, they too fondly entertain. They flatter themselves that this artificial is not discoverable, or distinguishable, from native, white. But I beg leave to assure them, that, however well-prepared the color may be, or however skilful the hand that lays it on, it is immediately discovered by the eye at a considerable distance, and by the nose upon a nearer approach; and I over-heard the other day at the coffee-house captain Phelim M^cManus complaining, that when warm upon the face it had the most nauseous taste imaginable. Thus offensive to three of the senses, it is not, probably, very inviting to a fourth.

Talking upon this subject lately with a friend, he said, that, in his opinion, a woman who painted white gave the public a pledge of her chastity, by fortifying it with a wall, which she must be sure that no

man would desire either to batter or scale. But, I confess, I did not agree with him as to the motive, though I did as to the consequences; which are, I believe, in general, that they lose both *operam et oleum*. I have observed that many of the sagacious landlords of this great metropolis, who lett lodgings, do, at the beginning of the winter, new vamp, paint and stucco the fronts of their houses, in order to catch the eyes of passengers, and engage lodgers. Now, to say the truth, I cannot help suspecting that this is rather the real motive of my fair countrywomen, when they thus incrust themselves. But alas! those outward repairs will never tempt people to inquire within. The cases are greatly different; in the former they both adorn and preserve, in the latter they disgust and destroy.

In order therefore to put an effectual stop to this enormity, and save, as far as I am able, the native carnations, the eyes, the teeth, the breath, and the reputations, of my beautiful fellow-subjects; I here give notice, that, if, within one kalendar month from the date hereof, I allow that time for the consumption of stock in hand, I shall receive any authentic testimonies, and I have my spies abroad, of this sophistication and adulteration of the fairest works of nature, I am resolved to publish at full-length the names of the delinquents. This may perhaps at first sight seem a bold measure, and actions of scandal and defamation may be thought of: but I go upon safe ground; for, before I took this resolution, I was determined to know all the worst possible consequences of it to myself, and therefore consulted one of the

moſt eminent council in England, an old acquaintance and friend of mine, whoſe opinion I ſhall here moſt faithfully relate.

When I had ſtated my caſe to him as clearly as I was able, he ſtroaked his chin for ſome time, picked his noſe, and hemmed thrice, in order to give me his very beſt opinion. "By publiſhing the names at full-"length in your paper, I humbly conceive," ſaid he, "that you avoid all the troubleſome conſequences of "*innuendos*. But the preſent queſtion, if I appre-"hend it aright, ſeems to be, whether you may there-"by be liable to any other action, or actions, which, "for brevity ſake, I will not here enumerate. Now, "by what occurs to me off-hand, and without con-"ſulting my books, I humbly apprehend that no "action will lie againſt you: but, on the contrary, I "do conceive, and indeed take upon me to affirm, "that you may proceed againſt theſe criminals, for "ſuch I will be bold to call them, either by action "or indictment; the crime being of a public and a "heinous nature. Here is not only the *ſuppreſſio* "*veri*, which is highly penal, but the *crimen falſi* too. "An *action popular*, or of *qui tam*, would certainly "lie; but however I ſhould certainly prefer an in-"dictment upon the ſtatutes of forgery, 2 Geo. II. "cap. 25. and 7 Geo. II. cap. 22: for forgery, I "maintain it, it is. The fact, as you well know, will "be tried by a jury, of whom one moiety will doubt-"leſs be plaiſterers; ſo that it will unqueſtionably "be found." Here my council pauſed for ſome time, and hemmed pretty often; however, I remained ſilent, obſerving plainly by his countenance that he had

had not finiſhed, but was thinking on. In a little time he reſumed his diſcourſe, and ſaid, " All things " conſidered, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I would adviſe you to " bring your indictment upon the *Black Act*, 9 Geo. I. " cap. 22. which is a very fine penal ſtatute." I confeſs I could not check the ſudden impulſe of ſurprize, which this occaſioned in me, and interrupting him perhaps too haſtily, " What, ſir," ſaid I, " indict a wo- " man upon the *Black Act* for *painting white?*" Here my council, interrupting me in his turn, ſaid with ſome warmth, " Mr. Fitz-Adam, Mr. Fitz-Adam, " you, like too many others, have not ſufficiently con- " ſidered all the beauty, good ſenſe, and ſolid reaſon- " ing, of the law. The law, ſir, let me tell you, abhors " all refinements, ſubtleties, and quibblings upon " words. What is black or white to the law? Do " you imagine that the law views colors by the rule of " optics? No, God forbid it ſhould. The law " makes black white, or white black, according to " the rules of juſtice. The law conſiders the mean- " ing, the intention, the *quo animo* of all actions, not " their external modes. Here a woman diſguiſes her " face with white, as the Waltham people did with " black, and with the ſame fraudulent and felonious " intention. Though the color be different, the guilt " is the ſame in the intendment of the law. It is " felony without benefit of clergy, and the puniſhment " is death." As I perceived that my friend had now done, I aſked his pardon for the improper interruption I had given him, owned myſelf convinced, and offered him a fee, which he took by habit, but ſoon returned,

turned, by reflecting upon our long acquaintance and friendſhip.

This, I hope, will be ſufficient to make ſuch of my fair countrywomen as are conſcious of their guilt, ſeriouſly conſider their danger; though perhaps, from my natural lenity, I ſhall not proceed againſt them with the utmoſt rigor of the law, nor follow the example of the ingenious author of our laſt muſical drama, who ſtrings up a whole row of Penelope's maids of honor. I ſhall therefore content myſelf with publiſhing the names of the delinquents as above-mentioned; but others may poſſibly not have the ſame indulgence; and the law is open for all.

I ſhall conclude this paper with a word or two of ſerious advice to all my readers, of all ſorts and ſexes. Let us follow nature, our honeſt and faithful guide, and be upon our guard againſt the flattering deluſions of art. Nature may be helped and improved, but will not be forced or changed. All attempts in direct oppoſition to her are attended with ridicule, many with guilt. The woman, to whom nature has denied beauty, in vain endeavours to make it by art; as the man, to whom nature has denied wit, becomes ridiculous by the affectation of it: they both defeat their own purpoſes, and are in the caſe of the valetudinarian, who creates or increaſes his diſtempers by his remedies, and dies of his immoderate deſire to live.

XXXV.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Feb. 13, 1755. N° 111.

IT is very well known that religion and politics are perfectly underſtood by every body, as they require neither ſtudy nor experience. All people therefore decide peremptorily, though often variouſly, upon both.

All ſects, ſeverally ſure of being in the right, intimate, at leaſt, if not denounce, damnation to thoſe who differ from them, in points ſo clear, ſo plain, and ſo obvious. On the other hand, the infidel, not leſs an enthuſiaſt than any of them, though upon his own principles he cannot damn, becauſe he knows to demonſtration that there is no future ſtate, would very gladly hang, as hypocrites or fools, the whole body of believers.

In politics, the ſects are as various and as warm: and what ſeems very extraordinary, is, that thoſe who have ſtudied them the moſt, and experienced them the longeſt, always know them the leaſt. Every adminiſtration is in the wrong, though they have the clue and ſecret of buſineſs in their hands; and not leſs than ſix millions of their fellow-ſubjects, for I only except very young children, are willing and able to diſcover, cenſure, reform, and correct, their errors, and put them in the right way.

Theſe conſiderations, among many others, determined me originally not to meddle with religion

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or politics, in which I could not inſtruct, and upon which I thought it not decent to trifle.

Entertainment alone muſt be the object of an humble weekly author of a ſheet and a half. A certain degree of bulk is abſolutely neceſſary for a certain degree of dignity, either in man or book. A ſyſtem of ethics, to be reſpected as it ought, requires at leaſt a quarto; and even moral eſſays cannot decently, and with utility, appear in leſs than a thick octavo. But ſhould I, in my ignoble ſtate of a fugitive ſheet and a half, preſume with a grave face to cenſure folly, or with an angry one to laſh vice, the porter of every well-bred family in town would have orders to deny me; and I ſhould forfeit my place at the breakfaſt-table, where now, to my great honor and emolument, I am pretty generally ſerved up. But if, by the introduction of that wit and humor, which I believe my enemies muſt allow me, I can without offence to the politer part of my readers ſlide in any uſeful moral, I will not neglect the opportunity: for I will be witty whenever I can, and inſtructive whenever I dare; and when my ſcattered leaves ſhall, like the Sibyls, come to be collected, I believe, I may without vanity aſſert, that they will be, at leaſt, as good oracles.

But in this deſign too I am aware of difficulties, little inferior to thoſe which diſcouraged me from meddling with religion and politics: for every body has wit and humour, and many have more of both than they, or at leaſt their friends, know what to do with. As they are gifts of nature, not to be acquired by art, who is there that thinks himſelf ſo diſ-

inherited

inherited by nature as not to have ſome ſhare of them? Nay, thoſe, if ſuch there are, who are modeſt enough to think themſelves cut off with a ſhilling, huſband that twelve-pence with care, and frugally ſpend their penny upon occaſion, as fly wags, and dry jokers.

In this univerſal profuſion, this prodigious plenty of wit and humour, I cannot help diſtruſting a little the ſucceſs, though by no means the merit, of my own: for I have interior conviction, that no man in England has ſo much. But taſtes are various, and the market is glutted. However, I ſhould hope that my candid readers will have the ſame regard for my opinion, which they have for moſt of the opinions they entertain; that is, that they will take it upon truſt, eſpecially as they have it *from the gentleman's own mouth.*

The better to take my meaſures for the future, I have endeavoured to trace the progreſs and reception of my paper through the ſeveral claſſes of its readers.

In families of condition, it is firſt received by the porter, who, yawning, juſt caſts his half-open eyes upon it, for it comes out ſo early as between ten and eleven; but, finding neither the politics nor the caſualties of the week in it, throws it aſide, and takes up in its ſtead a daily news-paper, in which all thoſe matters are related with truth and perſpicuity.

From thence it is ſent up to Mrs. Betty, to lay upon the breakfaſt-table. She receives it in pretty much the ſame manner, finds it deficient in point of news, and lays it down in exchange for the Daily-

Advertiſer,

Advertiſer, where ſhe turns with impatience to the advertiſements, to ſee what invitations are thrown out by ſingle gentlemen of undoubted characters, to agreeable young women of unblemiſhed reputations, to become either their wives or their companions. And, by a prudent forecaſt, ſhe particularly attends to the premiums ſo frequently offered for a fine wholeſome breaſt of milk.

When it is introduced into my lady's dreſſing-room, it undergoes a ſeverer examination: for, if my lord and lady ever meet, it is then and there. The youngeſt, probably, of the young ladies is appointed to read it aloud, to uſe her to read at ſight. If my lord, who is a judge of wit, as well as of property, in the laſt reſort, gives a favourable nod, and ſays, *it is well enough to-day*, my lady, who does not care to contradict him in trifles, pronounces it to be *charming*. But if unfortunately my lord, with an air of diſtaſte, calls it *poor ſtuff*, my lady diſcovers it to be *horridly ſtupid*. The young family are unanimouſly of opinion, that the name of Adam Fitz-Adam is a very comical one, and enquire into the meaning of the globe in the frontiſpiece; by which, if any body could tell them, they might get a pretty notion of geography.

In families of an inferior claſs, I meet with a fuller, though perhaps not a more favourable, trial. My merits and demerits are freely diſcuſſed. Some think me too grave, others trifling. The miſtreſs of the houſe, though ſhe deteſts ſcandal, wiſhes, for example's ſake only, that I would draw the characters, and expoſe the intrigues, of the fine folks.

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The master wonders that I do not give the ministers a rap; and concludes that I receive hush-money. But all agree in saying facetiously and pleasantly enough, that the WORLD does not inform them how the WORLD goes. This is followed by many other *bons mots*, equally ingenious, alluding to the title of my paper, and worth at least the two-pence a week that it costs.

In the city, for my paper has made its way to that end of the town upon the supposition of its being a fashionable one in this, I am received and considered in a different light. All my general reflexions upon the vices or the follies of the age are, by the ladies, supposed to be levelled at particular persons, or at least discovered to be very applicable to such and such of the QUALITY. They are also thought to be very pat to several of their own neighbours and acquaintance; and shrewd hints of the kind greatly embellish the conversation of the evening. The graver and more frugal part of that opulent metropolis, who do not themselves buy, but borrow my paper of those who do, complain that, though there is generally room sufficient at the end of the last page, I never insert the price of stocks nor of goods at Bear-key. And they are every one of them astonished how certain transactions of the court of aldermen on one hand, and of the common-council on the other, can possibly escape my animadversion, since it is impossible that they can have escaped my knowledge.

Such are the censures and difficulties, to which a poor weekly author is exposed. However, I have

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the pleasure, and something more than the pleasure, of finding that two thousand of my papers are circulated weekly. This number exceeds the largest that was ever printed even of the Spectators, which in no other respect do I pretend to equal. Such extraordinary success would be sufficient to flatter the vanity of a good author, and to turn the head of a bad one. But I prudently check and stifle those growing sentiments in my own breast, by reflecting upon the other circumstances that tend to my humiliation. I must confess that the present fashion of curling the hair has proved exceedingly favourable to me: and perhaps the quality of my paper, as it happens to be peculiarly adapted to that purpose, may contribute, more than its merit, to the sale of it. A head that has taken a right French turn, requires, as I am assured, fourscore curls in distinct papers, and those curls must be renewed as often as the head is combed, which is perhaps once a month. Four of my papers are sufficient for that purpose, and amount only to eight-pence, which is very little more than what the same quantity of plain paper would cost. Taking it therefore all together, it seems not inconsistent with good œconomy to purchase it at so small a price. This reflection might mortify me as an author; but, on the other hand, self-love, which is ingenious in availing itself of the slightest favourable circumstances, comforts me with the thought, that, of the prodigious number of daily and weekly papers that are now published, mine is perhaps the only one that is ultimately applied to the head.

XXXVI.

XXXVI.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, Feb. 20, 1755. N° 112.

A LATE noble author has moſt juſtly and elegantly defined cuſtom to be, "The reſult of "the paſſions and prejudices of many, and of the de- "ſigns of a few; the ape of reaſon, who uſurps her "ſeat, exerciſes her power, and is obeyed by man- "kind in her ſtead."

This definition enables us to account for the various abſurd and wicked cuſtoms which have ſeverally and ſucceſſively prevailed in all ages and countries, and alſo for thoſe which unfortunately prevail in this: for they may all be traced up to the paſſions and prejudices of the many, and the deſigns of a few.

It is certain, however, that there has not been a time, when the prerogative of human reaſon was more freely aſſerted, nor errors and prejudices more ably attacked and expoſed by the beſt writers, than now. But may not the principle of inquiry and detection be carried too far, or at leaſt made too general? And ſhould not a prudent diſcrimination of caſes be attended to?

A prejudice is by no means neceſſarily, though generally thought ſo, an error. On the contrary, it may be a moſt unqueſtioned truth, though it be ſtill a prejudice in thoſe who, without any examination, take it upon truſt, and entertain it by habit.

There are even ſome prejudices, founded upon error, which ought to be connived at, or perhaps encouraged; their effects being more beneficial to ſociety, than their detection can poſſibly be.

Human reason, even when improved by knowledge, and undisturbed by the passions, is not an infallible, though it is our best, guide: but, unimproved by knowledge, and adulterated by passion, it becomes the most dangerous one; constituting obstinate wrong-headedness, and dignifying, nay almost sanctifying, error.

The bulk of mankind have neither leisure nor knowledge sufficient to reason right: why then should they be taught to reason at all? Will not honest instinct prompt, and wholsome prejudices guide them, much better than half reasoning?

The power of the magistrate to punish bad, and the authority of those of superior rank to set good examples, properly exerted, would probably be of more diffusive advantage to society, than the most learned, theological, philosophical, moral and casuistical dissertations. As for instance.

An honest cobler in his stall thinks and calls himself a good honest protestant; and, if he lives at the city end of the town, probably goes to his parish-church on Sundays. Would it be honest, would it be wise, to say to this cobler, "Friend, you only think your-"self a member of the church of England; but in "reality you are not one, since you are only so from "habit and prejudice, not from examination and re-"flection. But study the ablest controversial writers "of the popish and reformed churches; read Bellar-"mine, Chillingworth, and Stillingfleet; and then "you may justly call yourself, what in truth you are "not now, a protestant."

Should our mender of shoes follow this advice, which I hope he would not, a useful cobler would

moſt certainly be loſt, in a uſeleſs polemic, and a ſcurvy logician.

It would be juſt the ſame thing in morals. Our cobler received from his parents that beſt and ſhorteſt of all chriſtian and moral precepts, "Do as you would "be done by:" he adopted it without much examination, and ſcrupulouſly practiſed it in general, though with ſome few exceptions perhaps in his own trade. But ſhould ſome philoſopher, for the advancement of truth and knowledge, aſſure this cobler, "That his honeſty was mere prejudice and habit, be- "cauſe he had never ſufficiently conſidered the rela- "tion and fitneſs of things, nor contemplated the "beauty of virtue; but that, if he would carefully "ſtudy the Characteriſtics, the Moral Philoſopher, "and thirty or forty volumes more upon that ſubject, "he might then, and not till then, juſtly call him- "ſelf an honeſt man;" what would become of the honeſty of the cobler after this uſeful diſcovery, I do not know: but this I very well know, that he ſhould no longer be MY cobler.

I ſhall borrow him in two inſtances more, and then leave him to his honeſt, uſeful, homeſpun prejudices, which half-knowledge and leſs reaſoning will, I hope, never tempt him to lay aſide.

My cobler is alſo a politician. He reads the firſt news-papers he can get, deſirous to be informed of the ſtate of affairs in Europe, and of the ſtreet-robberies in London. He has not, I preſume, analyſed the intereſts of the reſpective countries of Europe, nor deeply conſidered thoſe of his own: ſtill leſs is he ſyſtematically informed of the political duties of a

citizen and a ſubject. But his heart and his habit ſupply thoſe defects. He glows with zeal for the honor and proſperity of Old England; he will fight for it, if there be occaſion, and drink to it perhaps a little too often, and too much. However, is it not to be wiſhed that there were in this country ſix millions of ſuch honeſt and zealous, though uninformed, citizens?

All theſe unreflected and unexamined opinions of our cobler, though prejudices in him, are in themſelves undoubted and demonſtrable truths, and ought therefore to be cheriſhed even in their coarſeſt dreſs. But I ſhall now give an inſtance of a common prejudice in this country, which is the reſult of error, and which yet I believe no man in his ſenſes would deſire ſhould be expoſed or removed.

Our honeſt cobler is thoroughly convinced, as his forefathers were for many centuries, that one Engliſhman can beat three Frenchmen; and, in that perſuaſion, he would by no means decline the trial. Now, though in my own private opinion, deduced from phyſical principles, I am apt to believe that one Engliſhman could beat no more than two Frenchmen of equal ſtrength and ſize with himſelf, I ſhould however be very unwilling to undeceive him of that uſeful and ſanguine error, which certainly made his countrymen triumph in the fields of Poictiers and Crecy.

But there are prejudices of a very different nature from theſe; prejudices not only founded on original error, but that gave birth and ſanction to the moſt abſurd, extravagant, impious, and immoral cuſtoms.

Honor,

Honor, that ſacred name, which ought to mean the ſpirit, the ſupererogation of virtue, is, by cuſtom, profaned, reduced, and ſhrunk to mean only a readineſs to fight a duel upon either a real or an imaginary affront, and not to cheat at play. No vices nor immoralities whatſoever blaſt this faſhionable character, but rather, on the contrary, dignify and adorn it: and what ſhould baniſh a man from all ſociety, recommends him in general to the beſt. He may, with great honor, ſtarve the tradeſmen, who by their induſtry ſupply not only his wants, but his luxury; he may debauch his friend's wife, daughter, or ſiſter; he may, in ſhort, unboundedly gratify every appetite, paſſion, and intereſt, and ſcatter deſolation round him, if he be but ready for ſingle combat, and a ſcrupulous obſerver of all the moral obligations of a gameſter.

Theſe are the prejudices for wit to ridicule, for ſatire to laſh, for the rigor of the law to puniſh, and (which would be the moſt effectual of all) for faſhion to diſcountenance and proſcribe. And theſe ſhall in their turns be the ſubjects of ſome future papers.

XXXVII.

THE WORLD.

SATURDAY, Feb. 27, 1755. N° 113.

THE cuſtom of DUELLING is moſt evidently "the "reſult of the paſſions of the many, and of the "deſigns of a few;" but here the definition ſtops;

ſince, far from being "the ape of reaſon," it prevails in open defiance of it. It is the manifeſt offspring of barbarity and folly, a monſtrous birth, and diſtinguiſhed by the moſt ſhocking and ridiculous marks of both its parents.

I would not willingly give offence to the politer part of my readers, whom I acknowledge to be my beſt cuſtomers, and therefore I will not ſo much as hint at the impiety of this practice; nor will I labor to ſhew how repugnant it is to inſtinct, reaſon, and every moral and ſocial obligation, even to the faſhionable fitneſs of things. Viewed on the criminal ſide, it excites horror; on the abſurd ſide, it is an inexhauſtible fund of ridicule. The guilt has been conſidered and expoſed by abler pens than mine, and indeed ought to be cenſured with more dignity than a fugitive weekly paper can pretend to: I ſhall therefore content myſelf with ridiculing the folly of it.

The antients moſt certainly have had very imperfect notions of HONOR, for they had none of DUELLING. One reads, it is true, of murders committed every now and then among the Greeks and Romans, prompted only by intereſt or revenge, and performed without the leaſt Attic politeneſs, or Roman urbanity. No letters of gentle invitation were ſent to any man to come and have his throat cut the next morning; and we may obſerve that Milo had not the common decency to give Clodius, the moſt profligate of men, the moſt dangerous of citizens, and his own inveterate enemy, an equal chance of deſtroying him.

This delicacy of ſentiment, this refinement of manners, was reſerved for the politer Goths, Viſigoths, Oſtrogoths,

Oſtrogoths, Vandals, &c. to introduce, cultivate, and eſtabliſh. I muſt confeſs that they have generally been conſidered as barbarous nations; and to be ſure there are ſome circumſtances which ſeem to favour that opinion. They made open war upon learning, and gave no quarter even to the monuments of arts and ſciences. But then it muſt be owned, on the other hand, that upon thoſe ruins they eſtabliſhed the honorable and noble ſcience of HOMICIDE, dignified, exalted, and aſcertained TRUE HONOR, worſhiped it as their deity, and ſacrificed to it hecatombs of human victims.

In thoſe happy days, HONOR, that is, ſingle combat, was the great and unerring teſt of civil rights, moral actions, and ſound doctrines. It was ſanctified by the church, and the churchmen were occaſionally allowed the honor and pleaſure of it; for we read of many inſtances of DUELS between men and prieſts. Nay, it was, without appeal, the infallible teſt of female chaſtity. If a princeſs, or any lady of diſtinction, was ſuſpected of a little incontinency, ſome brave champion, who was commonly privy to, or perhaps the author of it, ſtood forth in her defence, and aſſerted her innocence with the point of his ſword or lance. If, by his activity, ſkill, ſtrength and courage, he murdered the accuſer, the lady was ſpotleſs; but, if her champion fell, her guilt was manifeſt. This heroic gallantry in defence of the fair, I preſume, occaſioned that aſſociation of ideas, otherwiſe ſeemingly unrelative to each other, of the BRAVE and the FAIR: for indeed in thoſe days it behoved a lady, who had the leaſt regard for her repu-

tation, to chuſe a lover of uncommon activity, ſtrength, and courage. This notion, as I am well aſſured, ſtill prevails in many reputable families about Covent-garden, where the BRAVE in the kitchen are always within call of the FAIR in the firſt or ſecond floor.

By this ſummary method of proceeding, the quibbles, the delays, and the expence of the law were avoided, and the troubleſome ſhackles of the goſpel knocked off; HONOR ruling in their ſtead. To prove the utility and juſtice of this method, I cannot help mentioning a very extraordinary DUEL between a man of diſtinction and a dog, in the year 1371, in preſence of king Charles the fifth of France. Both the relation and the print of this DUEL are to be found in father Monfaucon.

A gentleman of the court was ſuppoſed to have murdered another, who had been miſſing for ſome days. This ſuſpicion aroſe from the mute teſtimony of the abſent perſon's dog, a large Iriſh greyhound, who with uncommon rage attacked this ſuppoſed murderer wherever he met him. As he was a gentleman, and a man of very nice honor, though by the way he really had murdered the man, he could not bear lying under ſo diſhonorable a ſuſpicion, and therefore applied to the king for leave to juſtify his innocence by ſingle combat with the ſaid dog. The king, being a great lover of juſtice, granted his ſuit, ordered liſts to be made ready, appointed the time, and named the weapons. The gentleman was to have an offenſive club in his hand, the dog a defenſive tub to reſort to occaſionally. The Iriſh greyhound

hound willingly met this fair inviter at the time and place appointed; for it has always been obſervable of that particular breed, that they have an uncommon alacrity at ſingle combat. They fought, the dog prevailed, and almoſt killed the honorable gentleman, who had then the honor to confeſs his guilt, and of being hanged for it in a few days.

When letters, arts, and ſciences, revived in Europe, the ſcience of HOMICIDE was farther cultivated and improved. If, on the one hand, it loſt a little of the extent of its juridiction; on the other, it acquired great preciſion, clearneſs, and beauty, by the care and pains of the very beſt Italian and Spaniſh authors, who reduced it into a regular body, and delighted the world with their admirable codes, digeſts, pandects, and reports, *della cavalleresca*, in ſome hundreds of volumes. Almoſt all poſſible caſes of HONOR were conſidered and ſtated; two-and-thirty different ſorts of lies were diſtinguiſhed, and the adequate ſatisfaction neceſſary for each, was with great ſolidity and preciſion aſcertained. A kick with a thin ſhoe was declared more injurious to honor, though not ſo painful to the part kicked, than a kick with a thick ſhoe; and, in ſhort, a thouſand other diſcoveries of the like nature, equally beneficial to ſociety, were communicated to the world in thoſe voluminous treaſures of HONOR.

In the preſent degenerate age, the fundamental laws of HONOR are exploded and ridiculed, and ſingle combat thought a very uncertain, and even unjuſt, deciſion of civil property, female chaſtity, and criminal accuſations; but I would humbly aſk, why?

Is not ſingle combat as juſt a deciſion of any other thing whatſoever, as it is of veracity, the caſe to which it is now in a manner confined? I am of opinion that there are more men in the world who lie and fight too, than there are who will lie and not fight; becauſe I believe there are more men in the world who have, than who want, courage. But, if fighting is the teſt of veracity, my readers of condition will, I hope, pardon me, when I ſay, that my future inquiries and reſearches after truth ſhall be altogether confined to the three regiments of guards.

There is one reaſon, indeed, which makes me ſuſpect that a DUEL may not always be the infallible criterion of veracity; and that is, that the combatants very rarely meet upon equal terms. I beg leave to ſtate a caſe, which may very probably, and not even unfrequently happen, and which yet is not provided for, nor even mentioned in the INSTITUTES OF HONOR.

A very lean, ſlender, active young fellow of great HONOR, weighing perhaps not quite twelve ſtone, and who has from his youth taken leſſons of HOMICIDE from a murder-maſter, has, or thinks he has, a point of honor to diſcuſs with an unweildy, fat, middle-aged gentleman, of nice HONOR likewiſe, weighing four-and-twenty ſtone, and who in his youth may not poſſibly have had the ſame commendable application to the noble ſcience of HOMICIDE. The lean gentleman ſends a very civil letter to the fat one, inviting him to come and be killed by him the next morning in Hyde-park. Should the fat gentleman accept this invitation, and waddle to the place appointed,

he

he goes to inevitable ſlaughter. Now, upon this ſtate of the caſe, might not the fat gentleman, conſiſtent with the rules of HONOR, return the following anſwer to the invitation of the lean one?

"SIR,

"I find by your letter that you do me the juſtice "to believe, that I have the true notions of honor "that become a gentleman; and I hope I ſhall never "give you reaſon to change your opinion. As I "entertain the ſame opinion of you, I muſt ſuppoſe "that you will not deſire that we ſhould meet upon "unequal terms, which muſt be the caſe were we to "meet to-morrow. At preſent I unfortunately weigh "four-and-twenty ſtone, and I gueſs that you do "not exceed twelve. From this circumſtance ſingly, "I am doubly the mark that you are; but, beſides "this, you are active, and I am unweildy. I there-"fore propoſe to you, that, from this day forwards, "we ſeverally endeavour by all poſſible means, you "to fatten, and I to waſte, till we can meet at the "medium of eighteen ſtone. I will loſe no time on "my part, being impatient to prove to you that I "am not quite unworthy of the good opinion which "you are pleaſed to expreſs of,

"SIR,

"Your very humble ſervant.

"*P. S.* I believe it may not be amiſs for us to "communicate to each other, from time to "time, our gradations of increaſe or decreaſe, "towards the deſired medium, in which, I pre-"ſume,

"ſume, two or three pounds more or leſs, on "either ſide, ought not to be conſidered."

This, among many more caſes that I could mention, ſufficiently proves, not only the expediency, but the neceſſity, of reſtoring, reviſing, and perhaps adding to, the practice, rules, and ſtatutes, of ſingle combat, as it flouriſhed in the fifteenth and ſixteenth centuries. I grant that it would probably make the common law uſeleſs; but little, trifling, and private intereſts ought not to ſtand in the way of great, public, and national advantages.

XXXVIII.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, March 6, 1755. N° 114.

THE notion of BIRTH, as it is commonly called and eſtabliſhed by cuſtom, is alſo the manifeſt reſult *of the prejudices of the many, and of the deſigns of a few.* It is the child of Pride and Folly, coupled together by that induſtrious pandar Self-love. It is ſurely the ſtrongeſt inſtance, and the weakeſt prop, of human vanity. If it means any thing, it means a long lineal deſcent from a founder, whoſe induſtry or good fortune, whoſe merit, or perhaps whoſe guilt, has enabled his poſterity to live uſeleſs to ſociety, and to tranſmit to theirs their pride and their patrimony. However, this extravagant no-

tion,

tion, this chimerical advantage, the effect of blind chance, where prudence and option cannot even pretend to have the least share, is that FLY which, by a kind of Egyptian superstition, custom all over Europe has deified, and at whose tawdry shrine good sense, good manners, and good nature, are daily sacrificed.

The vulgar distinction between people of BIRTH and people of NO BIRTH will probably puzzle the critics and antiquaries of the thirtieth or fortieth centuries, when, in their judicious or laborious researches into the customs and manners of these present times, they shall have reason to suppose, that in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, the island of Great Britain was inhabited by two sorts of people, some BORN, but the much greater number UNBORN. The fact will appear so *incredible*, that it will certainly be *believed*; the only difficulty will be how to account for it; and that, as it commonly does, will engross the attention of the learned. The case of Cadmus's men will doubtless be urged as a case in point, to prove the possibility of the thing; and the truth of it will be confirmed by the records of the university of Oxford, where it will appear that an unborn person, called for that reason *Terræ Filius*, annually entertained that university with an oration in the theatre.

I therefore take with pleasure this opportunity of explaining and clearing up this difficulty to my remotest successors in the republic of letters, by giving them the true meaning of the several expressions of GREAT BIRTH, NOBLE BIRTH, and NO BIRTH AT ALL.

Great

Great and illuſtrious BIRTH is aſcertained and authenticated by a pedigree carefully preſerved in the family, which takes at leaſt an hour's time to unroll, and, when unrolled, diſcloſes twenty intermarriages of valiant and puiſſant Geoffreys and Hildebrands, with as many chaſte and pious Blaunches and Mauds, before the Conqueſt, not without here and there a daſh of the Plantagenets. But, if unfortunately the inſolent worms ſhould have devoured the pedigree as well as the perſons of the illuſtrious family, that defect may be ſupplied by the authentic records of the heralds office, that ineſtimable repoſitory of good ſenſe and uſeful knowledge. If this GREAT BIRTH is graced with a peerage, ſo much the better, but, if not, it is no great matter; for, being ſo ſolid a good in itſelf, it wants no borrowed advantages, and is unqueſtionably the moſt pleaſing ſentiment, that a truly generous mind is capable of feeling.

NOBLE BIRTH implies only a peerage in the family. Anceſtors are by no means neceſſary for this kind of birth; the patent is the midwife of it, and the very firſt deſcent is noble. The family arms, however modern, are dignified by the coronet and mantle; but the family livery is ſometimes, for very good reaſons, laid aſide.

BIRTH, ſingly, and without an epithet, extends, I cannot poſſibly ſay how far, but negatively it ſtops where uſeful arts and induſtry begin. Merchants, tradeſmen, yeomen, farmers, and ploughmen, are not BORN, or at leaſt in ſo mean a way as not to deſerve that name; and it is perhaps for that reaſon that their mothers are ſaid to be *delivered*, rather than

brought

brought to bed of them. But baronets, knights, and esquires, have the honor of being BORN.

I must confess that, before I got the key to this fashionable language, I was a good deal puzzled myself with the distinction between BIRTH and NO BIRTH; and, having no other guide than my own weak reason, I mistook the matter most grosly. I foolishly imagined that *well born*, meant born with a sound mind in a sound body; a healthy, strong constitution, joined to a good heart and a good understanding. But I never suspected that it could possibly mean the shrivelled, tasteless fruit of an old genealogical tree. I communicated my doubts, and applied for information, to my late worthy and curious friend the celebrated Mrs. Kennon, whose valuable collection of fossils and minerals, lately sold, sufficiently proves her skill and researches in the most recondite parts of nature. She, with that frankness and humanity which were natural to her, assured me that it was all vulgar error, in which however the nobility and gentry prided themselves, but that in truth she had never observed the children of the quality to be wholsomer and stronger than others, but rather the contrary; which difference she imputed to certain causes, which I shall not here specify. This natural, and, I dare say, to the best of her observation, true, account confirmed me in my former philosophical error. But still, not thoroughly satisfied with it, and thinking that there must be something more in what was so universally valued, I determined to get some farther information, by addressing myself to a person of vast, immense, prodigious BIRTH, and descended *atavis regibus*,

regibus, with whom I have the honor of being acquainted. As he expatiates willingly upon that subject, it was very easy for me to set him a going upon it, insomuch, that, upon some few doubts which I humbly suggested to him, he spoke to me in the following manner:

"I believe, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you are not, for nobody is, ignorant of the antiquity of my family, "which by authentic records I can trace to king Alfred, some of whose blood runs at this moment in "my veins, and I will not conceal from you that I "find infinite inward comfort and satisfaction in that "reflection. Let people of NO BIRTH laugh as much "as they please at these notions; they are not imaginary; they are real; they are solid; and whoever "is WELL BORN, is glad that he is so. A merchant, "a tradesman, a yeoman, a farmer, and such sort of "people, may perhaps have common honesty and "vulgar virtues; but, take my word for it, the more "refined and generous sentiments of honor, courage, "and magnanimity, can only flow in antient and "noble blood. What shall animate a tradesman or "mean-born man to any great and heroic virtues? "Shall it be the examples of his ancestors? He has "none. Or shall it be that impure blood that rather "stagnates than circulates in his veins? No; ANTIENT BIRTH and NOBLE BLOOD are the only true "sources of great virtues. This truth appears even "among brutes, who, we observe, never degenerate, "except in cases of mis-alliances with their inferiors. "Are not the pedigrees of horses, cocks, &c. carefully preserved, as the never-failing proofs of their

"swiftness

" ſwiftneſs and courage? I repeat it again, BIRTH is " an ineſtimable advantage, not to be adequately un- " derſtood but by thoſe who have it."

My friend was going on, and, to ſay the truth, growing dull; when I took the liberty of interrupting him, by acknowledging that the cogency of his arguments, and the ſelf-evidence of his facts, had entirely removed all my doubts, and convinced me of the unſpeakable advantages of ILLUSTRIOUS BIRTH, and unfortunately I added, that my own vanity was greatly flattered by it, in conſequence of my being lineally deſcended from the firſt man. Upon this my friend looked grave, and ſeemed rather diſpleaſed; whether from a ſuſpicion that I was jeſting, or upon an apprehenſion that I meant to *out-deſcend* him, I cannot determine; for he contented himſelf with ſaying, " That is not a neceſſary conſequence neither, Mr. " Fitz-Adam, ſince I have read ſomewhere or other " of pre-adamites, which opinion did not ſeem to " me an abſurd one."

Here I took my leave of him, and went home full of reflections upon the aſtoniſhing power of ſelf-love, that can extract comfort and pleaſure from ſuch groundleſs, abſurd, and extravagant prejudices. In all other reſpects my friend is neither a fool nor a madman, and can talk very rationally upon any rational ſubject. But ſuch is the inconſiſtency both of the human mind and the human heart, that one muſt not form a general judgement of either, from one glaring error, or one ſhining excellence.

XXXIX.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, April 17, 1755. N° 120.

MOST people complain of fortune, few of nature; and the kinder they think the latter has been to them, the more they murmur at what they call the injuſtice of the former.

Why have not I the riches, the rank, the power, of ſuch and ſuch, is the common expoſtulation with fortune: but why have not I the merit, the talents, the wit, or the beauty, of ſuch and ſuch others, is a reproach rarely or never made to nature.

The truth is, that nature, ſeldom profuſe, and ſeldom niggardly, has diſtributed her gifts more equally than ſhe is generally ſuppoſed to have done. Education and ſituation make the great difference. Culture improves, and occaſions elicit, natural talents. I make no doubt but that there are potentially, if I may uſe that pedantic word, many Bacons, Lockes, Newtons, Cæſars, Cromwells, and Marlboroughs, at the plough-tail, behind counters, and, perhaps, even among the nobility; but the ſoil muſt be cultivated, and the ſeaſons favourable, for the fruit to have all its ſpirit and flavor.

If ſometimes our common parent has been a little partial, and not kept the ſcales quite even; if one preponderates too much, we throw into the lighter a due counterpoiſe of vanity, which never fails to ſet all right. Hence it happens, that hardly any one man would,

would, without reſerve, and in every particular, change with any other.

Though all are thus ſatisfied with the diſpenſations of nature, how few liſten to her voice! how few follow her as a guide! In vain ſhe points out to us the plain and direct way to truth; vanity, fancy, affectation, and faſhion, aſſume her ſhape, and wind us through fairy-ground to folly and error.

Theſe deviations from nature are often attended by ſerious conſequences, and always by ridiculous ones; for there is nothing truer than the trite obſervation, "that people are never ridiculous for being what "they really are, but for affecting what they really "are not." Affectation is the only ſource, and at the ſame time the only juſtifiable object, of ridicule. No man whatſoever, be his pretenſions what they will, has a natural right to be ridiculous: it is an acquired right, and not to be acquired without ſome induſtry; which perhaps is the reaſon why ſo many people are ſo jealous and tenacious of it. Even ſome people's VICES are not their own, but affected and adopted, though at the ſame time unenjoyed, in hopes of ſhining in thoſe faſhionable ſocieties, where the reputation of certain vices gives luſtre. In theſe caſes, the execution is commonly as awkward, as the deſign is abſurd; and the ridicule equals the guilt.

This calls to my mind a thing, that really happened not many years ago. A young fellow of ſome rank and fortune, juſt let looſe from the univerſity, reſolved, in order to make a figure in the world, to aſſume the ſhining character of, what he called, a rake. By way of learning the rudiments of his intended

profeſſion, he frequented the theatres, where he was often drunk, and always noiſy. Being one night at the repreſentation of that moſt abſurd play, the *Libertine deſtroyed*, he was ſo charmed with the profligacy of the hero of the piece, that, to the edification of the audience, he ſwore many oaths that he would be the libertine *deſtroyed*. A diſcreet friend of his, who ſat by him, kindly repreſented to him, that to be the *libertine* was a laudable deſign, which he greatly approved of; but that to be the libertine *deſtroyed* ſeemed to him an unneceſſary part of his plan, and rather raſh. He perſiſted, however, in his firſt reſolution, and inſiſted upon being the libertine, and *deſtroyed*. Probably he was ſo; at leaſt the preſumption is in his favour. There are, I am perſuaded, ſo many caſes of this nature, that for my own part I would deſire no greater ſtep towards the reformation of manners for the next twenty years, than that our people ſhould have no vices but *their own*.

The blockhead who affects wiſdom, becauſe nature has given him dulneſs, becomes ridiculous only by his adopted character; whereas he might have ſtagnated unobſerved in his native mud, or perhaps have engroſſed deeds, collected ſhells, and ſtudied heraldry, or logic, with ſome ſucceſs.

The ſhining coxcomb aims at all, and decides finally upon every thing, becauſe nature has given him pertneſs. The degree of parts and animal ſpirits, neceſſary to conſtitute that character, if properly applied, might have made him uſeful in many parts of life; but his affectation and preſumption make him uſeleſs in moſt, and ridiculous in all.

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The ſeptuagenary fine gentleman might probably, from his long experience and knowledge of the world, be eſteemed and reſpected in the ſeveral relations of domeſtic life, which, at his age, nature points out to him: he will moſt ridiculouſly ſpin out the rotten thread of his former gallantries. He dreſſes, languiſhes, ogles, as he did at five-and-twenty; and modeſtly intimates that he is not without a *bonne fortune*, which *bonne fortune* at laſt appears to be the proſtitute he had long kept, not to himſelf, whom he marries and owns, becauſe *the poor girl was ſo fond of him, and ſo deſirous to be made an honeſt woman.*

The ſexagenary widow remembers that ſhe was handſome, but forgets that it was thirty years ago, and thinks herſelf ſo, or at leaſt very *likeable*, ſtill. The pardonable affectations of her youth and beauty unpardonably continue, increaſe even with her years, and are doubly exerted in hopes of concealing the number. All the gaudy glittering parts of dreſs, which rather degraded than adorned her beauty in its bloom, now expoſe to the higheſt and juſteſt ridicule her ſhrivelled or her overgrown carcaſe. She totters or ſweats under the load of her jewels, embroideries, and brocades, which, like ſo many Egyptian hieroglyphics, ſerve only to authenticate the venerable antiquity of her auguſt mummy. Her eyes dimly twinkle tenderneſs, or leer deſire: their language, however inelegant, is intelligible, and the half-pay captain underſtands it. He addreſſes his vows to her vanity, which aſſures her they are ſincere. She pities him, and prefers him to credit, decency, and every ſocial

duty. He tenderly prefers her, though not without some hesitation, to a jail.

Self-love, kept within due bounds, is a natural and useful sentiment. It is, in truth, social love too, as Mr. Pope has very justly observed: it is the spring of many good actions, and of no ridiculous ones. But self-flattery is only the ape or caricatura of self-love, and resembles it no more than to heighten the ridicule. Like other flattery, it is the most profusely bestowed and greedily swallowed, where it is the least deserved. I will conclude this subject with the substance of a fable of the ingenious monsieur De La Motte, which seems not unapplicable to it.

Jupiter made a lottery in heaven, in which mortals, as well as gods, were allowed to have tickets. The prize was WISDOM; and Minerva got it. The mortals murmured, and accused the gods of foul play. Jupiter, to wipe off this aspersion, declared another lottery, for mortals singly, and exclusively of the gods. The prize was FOLLY. They got it, and shared it among themselves. All were satisfied. The loss of WISDOM was neither regretted nor remembered; FOLLY supplied its place, and those, who had the largest share of it, thought themselves the wisest.

XL.

XL.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Oct. 16, 1755. N° 146.

I HAVE ſo tender a regard for my fair country-women, that I moſt heartily congratulate them upon the approaching meeting of the parliament, which I conſider, and I believe they do ſo too, as the general gaol-delivery of the ſeveral counties of the united kingdom.

That beautiful part of our ſpecies once engroſſed my cares; they ſtill ſhare them: I have been exceedingly affected all the ſummer with the thoughts of their captivity, and have felt a ſympathetic grief for them.

In truth, what can be more moving, than to imagine a fine woman, of the higheſt rank and faſhion, torn from all the elegant and refined pleaſures of the metropolis; hurried by a mercileſs huſband into country captivity, and there expoſed to the incurſions of the neighbouring knights, ſquires, and parſons, their wives, ſons, daughters, dogs, and horſes? The metropolis was at once the ſeat of her empire, and the theatre of her joys. Exiled from thence, how great the fall! how dreadful the priſon! Methinks I ſee her ſitting in her dreſſing-room at the manſion-ſeat, ſublimely ſullen, like a dethroned eaſtern monarch. Some few books, ſcattered up and down, ſeem to imply that ſhe finds no conſolation in any. The unopened knotting-bag ſpeaks her painful leiſure.

Inſenſible to the proffered endearments of her tender infants, they are ſent away for being ſo abominably noiſy. Her dreſs is even neglected, and her complexion laid by. I am not aſhamed to own my weakneſs, if it be one; for I confeſs that this image ſtruck me ſo ſtrongly, dwelt upon my mind ſo long, that it drew tears from my eyes.

The prorogation of the parliament laſt ſpring was the fatal fore-runner of this ſummer captivity. I was well aware of it, and had ſome thoughts of preparing a ſhort treatiſe of conſolation, which I would have preſented to my fair countrywomen, in two or three weekly papers, to have accompanied them in their exile: but I muſt own that I found the attempt greatly above my ſtrength; and an inadequate conſolation only redoubles the grief, by reviving in the mind the cauſe of it. Thus at a loſs, I ſearched, as every modeſt modern ſhould do, the antients, in order to ſay in Engliſh whatever they had ſaid in Latin or Greek upon the like occaſion; but, far from finding any caſe in point, I could not find one in any degree like it. I particularly conſulted Cicero, upon that exile which he bore ſo very indifferently himſelf; but, to my great ſurprize, could not meet with one ſingle word of conſolation, addreſſed or adapted to the fair and tender part of his ſpecies. To ſay the truth, that philoſopher ſeems to have had either a contempt for, or an averſion to, the fair ſex; for it is very obſervable, that, even in his eſſay upon old age, there is not one ſingle period addreſſed directly and excluſively to them; whereas I humbly preſume that an old woman wants at leaſt as much, if not more, comfort,

comfort, than an old man. Far be it from me to offer them that refined ſtoical argument to prove that exile can be no misfortune, becauſe the exiled perſons can always carry their virtue along with them, if they pleaſe.

However, though I could adminiſter no adequate comfort to my fair fellow-ſubjects under their country captivity, my tender concern for them prompts me to offer them ſome advice upon their approaching liberty.

As there muſt have been, during this ſuſpenſion, I will not ſay only of pleaſure, but, in a manner, of exiſtence, a conſiderable ſaving in the article of pin-money, I earneſtly recommend to them, immediately upon their coming to town, to apply that ſinking fund to the diſcharge of debts already incurred, and not divert it to the current ſervice of the enſuing year. I would not be miſunderſtood; I mean only the payment of debts of honor, contracted at commerce, bragg, or faro; as they are apt to hang heavy upon the minds of women of ſentiment, and even to affect their countenances upon the approach of a creditor. As for ſhop-debts, to mercers, milliners, jewellers, French pedlars, and ſuch-like, it is no great matter whether they are paid or not; ſomehow or other thoſe people will ſhift for themſelves, or, at worſt, fall ultimately upon the huſband.

I will alſo adviſe thoſe fine women, who, by an unfortunate concurrence of odious circumſtances, have been obliged to begin an acquaintance with their huſbands and children in the country, not to break it off intirely in town, but, on the contrary, to

allow a few minutes every day to the keeping it up; ſince a time may come, when perhaps they may like their company rather better than none at all.

As my fair fellow-ſubjects were always famous for their public ſpirit and love of their country, I hope they will, upon the preſent emergency of the war with France, diſtinguiſh themſelves by unequivocal proofs of patriotiſm. I flatter myſelf that they will, at their firſt appearance in town, publicly renounce thoſe French faſhions, which of late years have brought their principles, both with regard to religion and government, a little in queſtion. And therefore I exhort them to diſband their curls, comb their heads, wear white linen, and clean pocket-handkerchiefs, in open defiance of all the power of France. But, above all, I inſiſt upon their laying aſide that ſhameful piratical practice of hoiſting falſe colors upon their top gallant, in the miſtaken notion of captivating and enſlaving their countrymen. This they may the more eaſily do at firſt, ſince it is to be preſumed that, during their retirement, their faces have enjoyed uninterrupted reſt. Mercury and vermillion have made no depredation theſe ſix months; good air and good hours may perhaps have reſtored, to a certain degree at leaſt, their natural carnation: but at worſt, I will venture to aſſure them, that ſuch of their lovers, who may know them again in that ſtate of native artleſs beauty, will rejoice to find the communication opened again, and all the barriers of plaſter and ſtucco removed. Be it known to them, that there is not a man in England, who does not infinitely prefer the browneſt natural, to the whiteſt artificial,

artificial, ſkin; and I have received numberleſs letters from men of the firſt faſhion, not only requeſting, but requiring me to proclaim this truth, with leave to publiſh their names, which however I declined: but, if I thought it could be of any uſe, I could eaſily preſent them with a round robin to that effect, of above a thouſand of the moſt reſpectable names. One of my correſpondents, a member of the Royal Society, illuſtrates his indignation at glazed faces, by an apt and well-known phyſical experiment. The ſhining glaſs tube, ſays he, when warmed by friction, attracts a feather, probably a white one, to cloſe contact; but the ſame feather, from the moment that it is taken off the tube, flies it with more velocity than it approached it with before. I make no application; but avert the omen, my dear countrywomen!

Another, who ſeems to have ſome knowledge of chemiſtry, has ſent me a receipt for a moſt excellent waſh, which he deſires me to publiſh, by way of *ſuccedaneum* to the various greazy, glutinous, and pernicious applications ſo much uſed of late. It is as follows.

Take of fair clear water *quantum ſufficit*; put it into a clean earthen or china baſon, then take a clean linen cloth, dip it in that water, and apply it to the face night and morning, or oftener, as occaſion may require.

I own, the ſimplicity and purity of this admirable lotion recommend it greatly to me, and engage me to recommend it to my fair countrywomen. It is free from all the inconveniencies and naſtineſs of all other

preparations

preparations of art whatſoever. It does not ſtink, as all others do; it does not corrode the ſkin, as all others do; it does not deſtroy the eyes, nor rot the teeth, as all others do; and it does not communicate itſelf by colliſion, nor betray the tranſactions of a *tête à tête*, as moſt others do.

Having thus paid my tribute of grief to my lovely countrywomen during their captivity, and my tribute of congratulations upon their approaching liberty, I heartily wiſh them a good journey to London. May they ſoon enter, in joyful triumph, that metropolis, which ſix months ago they quitted with tears!

XLI.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY *, Oct. 30, 1755. N° 148.

CIVILITY and GOOD-BREEDING are generally thought, and often uſed, as ſynonymous terms, but are by no means ſo.

* Lord Cheſterfield, being at Bath, ſhewed one of his laſt Worlds to his friend general Irwine, who dined with him almoſt every day. The general, in the courſe of the converſation, mentioned good-breeding, as diſtinguiſhed from mere civility, as a ſubject that deſerved to be treated by him. His lordſhip at firſt declined it; but on his friend's inſiſting, and urging the ſingular propriety of its being undertaken by a man who was ſo perfect a maſter of the thing, he ſuddenly called for pen and ink, and wrote this excellent piece off hand, as he did all the others, without any raſure or interlineation. The paper, ever after, went by the name of general Irwine's paper.

GOOD-

GOOD-BREEDING neceſſarily implies CIVILITY; but CIVILITY does not reciprocally imply GOOD-BREEDING. The former has its intrinſic weight and value, which the latter always adorns, and often doubles by its workmanſhip.

To ſacrifice one's own ſelf-love to other people's is a ſhort, but, I believe, a true definition of CIVILITY: to do it with eaſe, propriety, and grace, is GOOD-BREEDING. The one is the reſult of good-nature; the other of good-ſenſe, joined to experience, obſervation, and attention.

A ploughman will be civil, if he is good-natured, but cannot be well-bred. A courtier will be well-bred, though perhaps without good-nature, if he has but good-ſenſe.

Flattery is the diſgrace of GOOD-BREEDING, as brutality often is of truth and ſincerity. GOOD-BREEDING is the middle point between thoſe two odious extremes.

CEREMONY is the ſuperſtition of GOOD BREEDING, as well as of religion; but yet, being an out-work to both, ſhould not be abſolutely demoliſhed. It is always, to a certain degree, to be complied with, though deſpiſed by thoſe who think, becauſe admired and reſpected by thoſe who do not.

The moſt perfect degree of GOOD-BREEDING, as I have already hinted, is only to be acquired by great knowledge of the world, and keeping the beſt company. It is not the object of mere ſpeculation, and cannot be exactly defined, as it conſiſts in a fitneſs, a propriety of words, actions, and even looks, adapted to the infinite variety and combinations of perſons,

places,

places, and things. It is a mode, not a ſubſtance: for what is GOOD-BREEDING at St. James's would paſs for foppery or banter in a remote village; and the home-ſpun CIVILITY of that village would be conſidered as brutality at court.

A cloyſtered pedant may form true notions of CIVILITY; but if, amidſt the cobwebs of his cell, he pretends to ſpin a ſpeculative ſyſtem of GOOD-BREEDING, he will not be leſs abſurd than his predeceſſor, who judiciouſly undertook to inſtruct Hannibal in the art of war. The moſt ridiculous and moſt awkward of men are, therefore, the ſpeculatively well-bred monks of all religions and all profeſſions.

GOOD-BREEDING, like charity, not only covers a multitude of faults, but, to a certain degree, ſupplies the want of ſome virtues. In the common intercourſe of life, it acts good-nature, and often does what good-nature will not always do; it keeps both wits and fools within thoſe bounds of decency, which the former are too apt to tranſgreſs, and which the latter never know.

Courts are unqueſtionably the ſeats of GOOD-BREEDING, and muſt neceſſarily be ſo; otherwiſe they would be the ſeats of violence and deſolation. There all the paſſions are in their higheſt ſtate of fermentation. All purſue what but few can obtain, and many ſeek what but one can enjoy. GOOD-BREEDING alone reſtrains their exceſſes. There, if enemies did not embrace, they would ſtab. There, ſmiles are often put on, to conceal tears. There, mutual ſervices are profeſſed, while mutual injuries are intended; and there, the guile of the ſerpent ſimulates the gentle-

neſs of the dove: all this, it is true, at the expence of ſincerity, but, upon the whole, to the advantage of ſocial intercourſe in general.

I would not be miſapprehended, and ſuppoſed to recommend GOOD-BREEDING, thus prophaned and proſtituted to the purpoſes of guilt and perfidy; but I think I may juſtly infer from it, to what a degree the accompliſhment of GOOD-BREEDING muſt adorn and enforce virtue and truth, when it can thus ſoften the outrages and deformity of vice and falſhood.

I am ſorry to be obliged to confeſs that my native country is not perhaps the ſeat of the moſt perfect GOOD-BREEDING, though I really believe that it yields to none in hearty and ſincere CIVILITY, as far as CIVILITY is, and to a certain degree it is, an inferior moral duty of doing as one would be done by. If France exceeds us in that particular, the incomparable author of *L'Eſprit des Loix* accounts for it very impartially, and I believe very truly. "If my "countrymen," ſays he, "are the beſt-bred people "in the world, it is only becauſe they are the vain-"eſt." It is certain that their GOOD-BREEDING and attentions, by flattering the vanity and ſelf-love of others, repay their own with intereſt. It is a general commerce, uſually carried on by a barter of attentions, and often without one grain of ſolid merit, by way of medium to make up the balance.

It were to be wiſhed that GOOD-BREEDING were in general thought a more eſſential part of the education of our youth, eſpecially of diſtinction, than at preſent it ſeems to be. It might even be ſubſtituted in the room of ſome academical ſtudies, that take up a great

a great deal of time to very little purpose; or at least, it might usefully share some of those many hours, that are so frequently employed upon a coach-box, or in stables. Surely those who, by their rank and fortune, are called to adorn courts, ought at least not to disgrace them by their manners.

But I observe with concern, that it is the fashion for our youth of both sexes to brand GOOD-BREEDING with the name of ceremony and formality. As such, they ridicule and explode it, and adopt in its stead an offensive carelessness and inattention, to the diminution, I will venture to say, even of their own pleasures, if they know what true pleasures are.

Love and friendship necessarily produce, and justly authorize, familiarity; but then GOOD BREEDING must mark out its bounds, and say, thus far shalt thou go, and no farther; for I have known many a passion and many a friendship degraded, weakened, and at last, if I may use the expression, wholly flatterned away by an unguarded and illiberal familiarity. Nor is GOOD-BREEDING less the ornament and cement of common social life: it connects, it endears, and, at the same time that it indulges the just liberty, restrains that indecent licentiousness of conversation, which alienates and provokes. Great talents make a man famous, great merit makes him respected, and great learning makes him esteemed; but GOOD-BREEDING alone can make him be loved.

I recommend it in a more particular manner to my countrywomen, as the greatest ornament to such of them as have beauty, and the safest refuge for those who have not. It facilitates the victories, decorates the

the triumphs, and ſecures the conqueſts of beauty, or in ſome degree atones for the want of it. It almoſt deifies a fine woman, and procures reſpect at leaſt to thoſe who have not charms enough to be admired.

Upon the whole, though GOOD-BREEDING cannot, ſtrictly ſpeaking, be called a virtue, yet it is productive of ſo many good effects, that, in my opinion, it may juſtly be reckoned more than a mere accompliſhment.

XLII.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Nov. 20, 1755. N° 151.

I WAS lately ſubpœnaed, by a card, to a general aſſembly at lady Townly's, where I went ſo awkwardly early, that I found nobody but the five or ſix people who had dined there, and who, for want of hands enough for play, were reduced to the cruel neceſſity of converſing, till ſomething better ſhould offer. Lady Townly obſerved with concern and impatience, "that people of faſhion now came intolera-"bly late, and in a glut at once, which laid the lady "of the houſe under great difficulties, to make the "parties properly." "That, no doubt," ſaid Manly, "is to be lamented; and the more ſo, as it ſeems to "give your ladyſhip ſome concern: but in the mean "time, for want of ſomething better to do, I ſhould "be glad to know the true meaning of a term that

" you have just made use of, *people of fashion*. I con-
" fess, I have never yet had a precise and clear idea
" of it; and I am sure I cannot apply more properly
" for information, than to this company, which is
" most unquestionably composed of *people of fashion*,
" whatever *people of fashion* may be. I therefore beg
" to know the meaning of that term: what are they,
" who are they, and what constitutes, I had almost
" said, anoints them, *people of fashion?*"

These questions, instead of receiving immediate answers, occasioned a general silence of above a minute, which perhaps was the result of the whole company's having discovered, for the first time, that they had long and often made use of a term which they had never understood: for a little reflection frequently produces those discoveries. Belinda first broke this silence, by saying, " One well knows who
" are meant by *people of fashion*, though one does
" not just know how to describe them: they are
" those that one generally lives with; they are peo-
" ple of a certain sort."—" They certainly are so,"
interrupted Manly; " but the point is of what sort?
" If you mean by people of a certain sort, yourself,
" which is commonly the meaning of those who
" make use of that expression, you are indisputably
" in the right, as you have all the qualifications that
" can, or, at least, ought to constitute and adorn a
" *woman of fashion*. But, pray, must all *women of*
" *fashion* have all your accomplishments? If so, the
" myriads of them which I had imagined from what
" I heard every day, and every where, will dwindle
" into a handful." " Without having those ac-
" complish-

" compliſhments which you ſo partially allow me," anſwered Belinda, " I ſtill pretend to be a *woman of* " *faſhion*; a character, which I cannot think requires " an uncommon ſhare of talents or merit." " That " is the very point," replied Manly, " which I want " to come at; and therefore give me leave to queſtion " you a little more particularly. You have ſome " advantages, which even your modeſty will not al- " low you to diſclaim, ſuch as your birth and for- " tune: do they conſtitute you a *woman of faſhion?*" As Belinda was going to anſwer, Bellair pertly interpoſed, and ſaid, " Neither, to be ſure, Mr. Manly: " if birth conſtituted *faſhion*, we muſt look for it in " that ineſtimable treaſure of uſeful knowledge, the " peerage of England; or, if wealth, we ſhould find " the very beſt at the Bank, and at Garraway's." " Well then, Bellair," ſaid Manly, " ſince you have " taken upon you to be Belinda's ſponſor, let me " aſk you two or three queſtions, which you can " more properly anſwer than ſhe could. Is it her " beauty?" " By no means neither," replied Bellair; " for, at that rate, there might perhaps be a " *woman of faſhion* with a gold chain about her neck " in the city, or, with a fat amber necklace in the " country: prodigies, as yet unheard-of and unſeen." " Is it then her wit and good-breeding?" continued Manly. " Each contributes," anſwered Bellair; " but both would not be ſufficient, without a certain " *je ne ſçais quoi*, a ſomething or other that I feel " better than I can explain."

Here Dorimant, who had ſat all this time ſilent, but looked miſchievous, ſaid, " I could ſay ſome-

" thing."—" Ay, and something very impertinent,
" according to custom," answered Belinda; " so
" hold your tongue, I charge you." " You are sin-
" gularly charitable, Belinda," replied Dorimant, " in
" being so sure that I was going to be impertinent,
" only because I was going to speak. Why this sus-
" picion of me?" " Why! because I know you to be
" an odious, abominable creature, upon all subjects
" of this kind." This amicable quarrel was put an
end to by Harriet, who, on a sudden, and with her
usual vivacity, cried out, " I am sure I have it now,
" and can tell you exactly " what *people of fashion*
" are: they are just the reverse of your *odd people.*"
" Very possible, madam," answered Manly, " and
" therefore I could wish that you would give your-
" self the trouble of defining *odd people*; and so, by
" the rule of contraries, help us to a true notion of
" *people of fashion.*" " Ay, that I can very easily
" do," said Harriet. " In the first place, your *odd*
" *people* are those that one never lets in, unless one is
" at home to the whole town." " A little more par-
" ticular, dear Harriet," interrupted Manly. " So I
" will," said Harriet, " for I hate them all. There
" are several sorts of them. Your prudes, for in-
" stance, who respect and value themselves upon the
" unblemished purity of their characters; who rail at
" the indecency of the times, censure the most in-
" nocent freedoms, and suspect the Lord knows
" what, if they do but observe a close and familiar
" whisper between a man and a woman, in a remote
" corner of the room. There are, besides, a sober,
" formal, sort of married women, insipid creatures,
" who

" who lead domeſtic lives, and who can be merry, " as they think, at home, with their own and their " huſband's relations, particularly at Chriſtmas. Like " turtles, they are true and tender to their lawful " mates, and breed like rabbets, to beggar and per- " petuate their families. Theſe are very *odd women*, " to be ſure; but deliver me from your ſevere and " auguſt dowagers, who are the ſcourges of *people of* " *faſhion*, by infeſting all public places, in order to " make their ſpiteful remarks. One meets them " every where, and they ſeem to have the ſecret of " multiplying themſelves into ten different places at " once. Their poor horſes, like thoſe of the ſun, go " round the world every day, baiting only at eleven " in the morning, and fix in the evening, at their " pariſh-churches. They ſpeak as movingly of their " *poor late lords*, as if they had ever cared for one " another; and, to do them honor, repeat ſome of " the many ſilly things they uſed to ſay. Laſtly, " there are your maiden ladies of riper years, or- " phans of diſtinction, who live together by twos and " threes, who club their ſtocks for a neat little " houſe, a light-bodied coach, and a foot-boy —" " And," added Bellair, " quarrel every day about " the dividend." " True," ſaid Harriet, " they are " not the ſweeteſt-tempered creatures in the world; " but, after all, one muſt forgive them ſome malig- " nity, in conſideration of their diſappointments. " Well, have I now deſcribed *odd people* to your ſa- " tisfaction?" " Admirably," anſwered Manly; " and " ſo well, that one can, to a great degree at leaſt, " judge of their antipodes, *the people of faſhion*. But

" ſtill there ſeems ſomething wanting; for the pre-
" ſent account, by the rule of contraries, ſtands only
" thus: that *women of faſhion* muſt not care for their
" huſbands, muſt not go to church, and muſt not
" have unblemiſhed, or at leaſt unſuſpected, reputa-
" tions. Now, though all theſe are very commend-
" able qualifications, it muſt be owned, they are
" but negative ones, and conſequently there muſt be
" ſome poſitive ones neceſſary to compleat ſo amia-
" ble a character." " I was going to add," inter-
rupted Harriet, " which, by the way, was more
" than I engaged for, that *people of faſhion* were pro-
" perly thoſe who ſet the faſhions, and who gave the
" tone of dreſs, language, manners, and pleaſures,
" to the town." " I admit it," ſaid Manly; " but
" what I want ſtill to know is, who gave them power,
" or did they uſurp it? for, by the nature of that
" power, it does not ſeem to me to admit of a ſuc-
" ceſſion by hereditary and divine right." " Were
" I allowed to ſpeak," ſaid Dorimant, " perhaps I
" could both ſhorten and clear up this caſe. But I
" dare not, unleſs Belinda, to whom I profeſs im-
" plicit obedience, gives me leave." " Even let
" him ſpeak, Belinda," ſaid Harriet; " I know he
" will abuſe us, but we are uſed to him." " Well,
" ſay your ſay then," ſaid Belinda. " See what an
" impertinent ſneer he has already." Upon this,
Dorimant, addreſſing himſelf more particularly to
Belinda, and ſmiling, ſaid,

" Then think
" That he, who thus commanded dares to ſpeak,
" Unleſs commanded, would have died in ſilence."

" O, your

" O, your ſervant, ſir, ſaid Belinda;" that fit of hu-
" mility will, I am ſure, not laſt long; but how-
" ever go on." " I will, to anſwer Manly's queſ-
" tion," ſaid Dorimant, " which, by the way, has
" ſomething the air of a catechiſm. Who made
" theſe *people of faſhion?* I give this ſhort and plain
" anſwer; they made one another. The men, by
" their attentions and credit, make the *women of*
" *faſhion*; and the women, by either their ſuppoſed
" or real favours, make the *men* ſuch. They are
" mutually neceſſary to each other." " Impertinent
" enough of all conſcience," ſaid Belinda. " So,
" without the aſſiſtance of you faſhionable men, what
" ſhould we poor women be?" " Why faith," re-
plied Dorimant, " but *odd women*, I doubt; as we
" ſhould be but odd fellows without your friendly
" aid to faſhion us. In one word, a frequent and
" reciprocal colliſion of the two ſexes is abſolutely
" neceſſary, to give one that high poliſh which is
" properly called *faſhion*." " Mr. Dorimant has, I
" own," ſaid Manly, " opened new and important
" matter; and my ſcattered and confuſed notions
" ſeem now to take ſome form, and tend to a point.
" But, as examples always beſt clear up abſtruſe mat-
" ters, let us now propoſe ſome examples of both
" ſorts, and take the opinions of the company upon
" them. For inſtance, I will offer one to your con-
" ſideration. Is Berynthia a *woman of faſhion* or
" not?" The whole company readily, and almoſt at
once, anſwered, " Doubtleſs ſhe is." " That may
" be," ſaid Manly, " but why? For ſhe has neither
" birth nor fortune, and but ſmall remains of beauty."

"All that is true, I confeſs;" ſaid Belinda; "but "ſhe is well-dreſt, well-bred, good-humoured, and "always ready to go with one any where." "Might "I preſume," ſaid Dorimant, "to add a title, and "perhaps the beſt, to her claims of *faſhion*, I ſhould "ſay that ſhe was of Belville's creation, who is the "very fountain of honor of that ſort. He dignified "her by his addreſſes; and thoſe who have the "good fortune to ſhare his reputation"—"Have," ſaid Belinda with ſome warmth, "the misfortune to "loſe their own." I told you," turning to Harriet, "what would happen if we allowed him to ſpeak: "and juſt ſo it has happened; for the gentleman "has almoſt in plain terms aſſerted, that a woman "cannot be a *woman of faſhion* till ſhe has loſt her "reputation." "Fye, Belinda, how you wrong "me!" replied Dorimant. "Loſt her reputation! "Such a thought never entered into my head; I "only meant miſlaid it. With a very little care "ſhe will find it again." "There you are in the "right," ſaid Bellair; "for it is moſt certain that "the reputation of a *woman of faſhion* ſhould not be "too muddy." "True," replied Dorimant, "nor "too limpid neither; it muſt not be mere rock-"water, cold and clear; it ſhould ſparkle a little." "Well," ſaid Harriet, "now that Berynthia is una-"nimouſly voted a *woman of faſhion*, what think you "of Loveit? Is ſhe, or is ſhe not one?" "If ſhe is "one," anſwered Dorimant, "I am very much miſ-"taken if it is not of Mirabel's creation."—"By "*writ*, I believe," ſaid Bellair, "for I ſaw him give "her a letter one night at the opera." "But ſhe

"has

"has other good claims too," added Dorimant. "Her fortune, though not large, is eaſy; and no-"body fears certain applications from her. She has "a ſmall houſe of her own, which ſhe has fitted up "very prettily, and is often *at home*, not to crowds "indeed, but to people of the beſt faſhion, from "twenty, occaſionally down to two; and let me tell "you, that nothing makes a woman of Loveit's "ſort better received abroad, than being often *at* "*home*." "I own," ſaid Bellair, "that I looked "upon her rather as a genteel led-captain, a poſt-"ſcript to *women of faſhion*." "Perhaps too ſome-"times the cover," anſwered Dorimant, "and if ſo, "an equal. You may joke as much as you pleaſe "upon poor Loveit, but ſhe is the beſt-humoured "creature in the world; and I maintain her to be a "*woman of faſhion*; for, in ſhort, we all roll with "her, as the ſoldiers ſay." "I want to know," ſaid Belinda, "what you will determine upon a character "very different from the two laſt, I mean lady Love-"leſs: is ſhe a *woman of faſhion?*" "Dear Belinda," anſwered Harriet haſtily, "how could ſhe poſſibly "come into your head?" "Very naturally," ſaid Belinda; "ſhe has birth, beauty, and fortune; ſhe "is well-bred." "I own it," ſaid Harriet; "but "ſtill ſhe is handſome without meaning, well-ſhaped "without air, genteel without graces, and well-dreſt "without taſte. She is ſuch an inſipid creature, ſhe "ſeldom comes about, but lives at home with her "lord, and ſo domeſtically tame, that ſhe eats out "of his hand, and teaches her young ones to peck "out of her own. Odd, very odd, take my word

"for

"for it." "Ay, mere rock-water," said Dorimant, "and, as I told you an hour ago, that will not do." "No, most certainly," added Bellair; "all that re-"serve, simplicity, and coldness, can never do. It "seems to me rather that the true composition of "*people of fashion*, like that of Venice treacle, con-"sists of an infinite number of fine ingredients, but "all of the warm kind." "Truce with your filthy "treacle," said Harriet; "and since the conversa-"tion has hitherto chiefly turned upon us poor wo-"men, I think we have a right to insist upon the "definition of you *men of fashion*." "No doubt of "it," said Dorimant; "nothing is more just, and "nothing more easy. Allowing some small differ-"ence for modes and habits, the *men* and the *women* "*of fashion* are in truth the counterparts of each "other: they fit like tallies, are made of the same "wood, and are cut out for one another."

As Dorimant was going on, probably to illustrate his assertion, a valet de chambre proclaimed in a solemn manner the arrival of the dutchess dowager of Mattadore and her three daughters, who were immediately followed by lord Formal, sir Peter Plausible, and divers others of both sexes, and of equal importance. The lady of the house, with infinite skill and indefatigable pains, soon peopled the several card-tables, with the greatest propriety, and to universal satisfaction; and the night concluded with slams, honors, best-games, pairs, pair-royals, and all other such rational demonstrations of joy.

For my own part, I made my escape as soon as I possibly could, with my head full of that most extraordinary

traordinary converſation, which I had juſt heard, and which, from having taken no part in it, I had attended to the more, and retained the better. I went ſtraight home, and immediately reduced it into writing, as I here offer it for the preſent edification of my readers. But, as it has furniſhed me with great and new lights, I propoſe, as ſoon as poſſible, to give the public a new and compleat ſyſtem of ethics, founded upon theſe principles of *people of faſhion*; as, in my opinion, they are better calculated than many others, for the uſe and inſtruction of all private families.

XLIII.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Aug. 12, 1756. N° 189.

WE are accuſed by the French, and perhaps but too juſtly, of having no word in our language, which anſwers to their word *police*, which therefore we have been obliged to adopt, not having, as they ſay, the thing.

It does not occur to me that we have any one word in our language, I hope not from the ſame reaſon, to expreſs the ideas which they comprehend under their word *les mœurs*. *Manners* are too little, *morals* too much. I ſhould define it thus; *a general exterior decency, fitneſs, and propriety of conduct, in the common intercourſe of life.*

Cicero,

Cicero, in his Offices, makes use of the word *decorum* in this sense, to express what the Greeks signified by their word (I will not shock the eyes of my polite readers with Greek types) *τὸ πρεπον*.

The thing however is unquestionably of importance, by whatever word it may be dignified or degraded, distinguished or mistaken; it shall therefore be the subject of this paper to explain and recommend it; and upon this occasion I shall adopt the word *decorum*.

But, as I have some private reasons for desiring not to lessen the sale of these my lucubrations, I must premise, that, notwithstanding this serious introduction, I am not going to preach either religious or moral duties. On the contrary, it is a scheme of interest which I mean to communicate, and which, if the supposed characteristic of the present age be true, must, I should apprehend, be highly acceptable to the generality of my readers.

I take it for granted that the most sensible and informed part of mankind, I mean people of fashion, pursue singly their own interests and pleasures; that they desire as far as possible to enjoy them exclusively, and to avail themselves of the simplicity, the ignorance, and the prejudices, of the vulgar, who have neither the same strength of mind, nor the same advantages of education. Now it is certain that nothing would more contribute to that desirable end, than a strict observance of this *decorum*, which, as I have already hinted, does not extend to religious or moral duties, does not prohibit the enjoyments of vice, but only throws a veil of decency between it and

and the vulgar, conceals part of its native deformity, and prevents ſcandal, and bad example. It is a ſort of pepper-corn quit-rent paid to virtue, as an acknowledgment of its ſuperiority; but, according to our preſent conſtitution, is the eaſy price of freedom, not the tribute of vaſſalage.

Thoſe who would be reſpected by others, muſt firſt reſpect themſelves. A certain exterior purity and dignity of character commands reſpect, procures credit, and invites confidence; but the public exerciſe and oſtentation of vice has all the contrary effects.

The middle claſs of people in this country, though generally ſtraining to imitate their betters, have not yet ſhaken off the prejudices of their education; very many of them ſtill believe in a ſupreme being, in a future ſtate of rewards and puniſhments, and retain ſome coarſe, home-ſpun notions of moral good and evil. The rational ſyſtem of materialiſm has not yet reached them, and, in my opinion, it may be full as well it never ſhould; for, as I am not of levelling principles, I am for preſerving a due ſubordination from inferiors to ſuperiors, which an equality of profligacy muſt totally deſtroy.

A fair character is a more lucrative thing than people are generally aware of; and I am informed that an eminent money-ſcrivener has lately calculated with great accuracy the advantage of it, and that it has turned out a clear profit of thirteen and a half *per cent.* in the general tranſactions of life; which advantage, frequently repeated, as it muſt be in the courſe of the year, amounts to a very conſiderable object.

To

To proceed to a few instances. If the courtier would but wear the appearance of truth, promise less, and perform more, he would acquire such a degree of trust and confidence, as would enable him to strike on a sudden, and with success, some splendid stroke of perfidy, to the infinite advantage of himself and his party.

A patriot, of all people, should be a strict observer of this *decorum*, if he would, as it is to be presumed he would, bear a good price at the court market. The love of his dear country, well acted and little felt, will certainly get him into good keeping, and perhaps procure him a handsome settlement for life; but, if his prostitution be flagrant, he is only made use of in cases of the utmost necessity, and even then only by cullies. I must observe by the bye, that of late the market has been a little glutted with patriots, and consequently they do not sell quite so well.

Few masters of families are, I should presume, desirous to be robbed indiscriminately by all their servants; and as servants in general are more afraid of the devil, and less of the gallows, than their masters, it seems to be as imprudent as indecent to remove that wholsome fear, either by their examples, or their philosophical dissertations, exploding in their presence, though ever so justly, all the idle notions of future punishments, or of moral good and evil. At present, honest faithful servants rob their masters conscientiously only in their respective stations: but take away those checks and restraints which the prejudices of their education have laid them under, they will soon rob indiscriminately, and out of their several de-

partments;

partments; which would probably create some little confusion in families, especially in numerous ones.

I cannot omit observing, that this *decorum* extends to the little trifling offices of common life; such as seeming to take a tender and affectionate part in the health or fortune of your acquaintance, and a readiness and alacrity to serve them in things of little consequence to them, and of none at all to you. These attentions bring-in good interest; the weak and the ignorant mistake them for the real sentiments of your heart, and give you their esteem and friendship in return. The wise, indeed, pay you in your own coin, or by a truck of commodities of equal value, upon which, however, there is no loss; so that, upon the whole, this commerce, skilfully carried on, is a very lucrative one.

In all my schemes for the general good of mankind, I have always a particular attention to the utility that may arise from them to my fair fellow-subjects, for whom I have the tenderest and most unfeigned concern; and I lay hold of this opportunity, most earnestly to recommend to them the strictest observance of this *decorum*. I will admit that a fine woman of a certain rank cannot have too many real vices; but, at the same time, I do insist upon it, that it is essentially her interest, not to have the appearance of any one. This *decorum*, I confess, will conceal her conquests, and prevent her triumphs; but, on the other hand, if she will be pleased to reflect that those conquests are known, sooner or later, always to end in her total defeat, she will not upon an average find herself a loser. There are indeed some husbands of such

humane and hospitable dispositions, that they seem determined to share all their happiness with their friends and acquaintance; so that, with regard to such husbands singly, this *decorum* were useless: but the far greater number are of a churlish and uncommunicative disposition, troublesome upon bare suspicions, and brutal upon proofs. These are capable of inflicting upon the fair delinquent the pains and penalties of exile and imprisonment at the dreadful mansion-seat, notwithstanding the most solemn protestations and oaths, backed with the most moving tears, that nothing really criminal has passed. But it must be owned that, of all negatives, that is much the hardest to be proved.

Though deep play be a very innocent and even commendable amusement in itself, it is however, as things are yet constituted, a great breach, nay perpaps the highest violation possible, of the *decorum* in the fair sex. If generally fortunate, it induces some suspicion of dexterity; if unfortunate, of debt; and in this latter case, the ways and means for raising the supplies necessary for the current year are sometimes supposed to be unwarrantable. But what is still much more important, is, that the agonies of an ill run will disfigure the finest face in the world, and cause most ungraceful emotions. I have known a bad game, suddenly produced upon a good game, for a deep stake at bragg or commerce, almost make the vermillion turn pale, and elicit from lips, where the sweets of Hybla dwelt, and where the loves and graces played, some murmured oaths, which, though minced and mitigated a little in their terminations,

ſeemed to me, upon the whole, to be rather unbecoming.

Another ſingular advantage, which will ariſe to my fair countrywomen of diſtinction from the obſervance of this *decorum*, is, that they will never want ſome creditable led-captain to attend them at a minute's warning to operas, plays, Ranelagh, and Vauxhall; whereas I have known ſome women of extreme condition, who, by neglecting the *decorum*, had flatterned away their characters to ſuch a degree, as to be obliged upon thoſe emergencies to take up with mere toad-eaters of very equivocal rank and character, who by no means graced their entry into public places.

To the young unmarried ladies, I beg leave to repreſent, that this *decorum* will make a difference of at leaſt five-and-twenty if not fifty *per cent.* in their fortunes. The pretty men, who have commonly the honor of attending them, are not in general the marrying kind of men; they love them too much, or too little, know them too well, or not well enough, to think of marrying them. The huſband-like men are a ſet of aukward fellows with good eſtates, and who, not having got the better of vulgar prejudices, lay ſome ſtreſs upon the characters of their wives, and the legitimacy of the heirs to their eſtates and titles. Theſe are to be caught only by *les mœurs*; the hook muſt be baited with the *decorum*; the naked one will not do.

I muſt own that it ſeems too ſevere to deny young ladies the innocent amuſements of the preſent times, but I beg of them to recollect that I mean only with

regard to outward appearances; and I ſhould preſume that *tête-à-têtes* with the pretty men might be contrived and brought about in places leſs public than Kenſington-gardens, the two parks, the high roads, or the ſtreets of London.

Having thus combined, as I flatter myſelf that I have, the ſolid enjoyments of vice, with the uſeful appearances of virtue, I think myſelf entitled to the thanks of my country in general, and to that juſt praiſe which Horace gives to the author, *qui miſcuit utile dulci*, or, in Engliſh, who joins the uſeful with the agreeable.

XLIV.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Sept. 30, 1756. N° 196.

IT is a vulgar notion, and worthy of the vulgar, for it is both falſe and abſurd, that paſſionate people are the beſt-natured people in the world. *They are a little haſty, it is true; a trifle will put them in a fury; and, while they are in that fury, they neither know nor care what they ſay or do: but then, as ſoon as it is over, they are extremely ſorry and penitent for any injury or miſchief they did.* This panegyric of theſe choleric good-natured people, when examined and ſimplified, amounts in plain common ſenſe and Engliſh to this: that they are good-natured when they are not ill-natured; and that when, in their fits of rage, they have ſaid or done things that have brought

brought them to the gaol or the gallows, they are extremely ſorry for it. It is indeed highly probable that they are; but where is the reparation to thoſe whoſe reputations, limbs, or lives, they have either wounded or deſtroyed? This concern comes too late, and is only for themſelves. Self-love was the cauſe of the injury, and is the only motive of the repentance.

Had theſe furious people real good-nature, their firſt offence would be their laſt, and they would reſolve at all events never to relapſe. The moment they felt their choler riſing, they would enjoin themſelves an abſolute ſilence and inaction, and by that ſudden check rather expoſe themſelves to a momentary ridicule, which, by the way, would be followed by univerſal applauſe, than run the leaſt riſk of being irreparably miſchievous.

I know it is ſaid in their behalf, that this impulſe to wrath is conſtitutionally ſo ſudden and ſo ſtrong, that they cannot ſtifle it, even in its birth: but experience ſhews us, that this allegation is notoriouſly falſe; for we daily obſerve that theſe ſtormy perſons both can and do lay thoſe guſts of paſſion, when awed by reſpect, reſtrained by intereſt, or intimidated by fear. The moſt outrageous furioſo does not give a looſe to his anger in preſence of his ſovereign, or his miſtreſs; nor the expectant heir in preſence of the peeviſh dotard from whom he hopes for an inheritance. The ſoliciting courtier, though perhaps under the ſtrongeſt provocations from unjuſt delays and broken promiſes, calmly ſwallows his unavailing wrath, diſguiſes it even under ſmiles, and gently waits

for more favourable moments: nor does the criminal fly in a paſſion at his judge or his jury.

There is then but one ſolid excuſe to be alledged in favour of theſe people; and, if they will frankly urge it, I will candidly admit it, becauſe it points out its own remedy. I mean, let them fairly confeſs themſelves mad, as they moſt unqueſtionably are: for what plea can thoſe that are frantic ten times a day, bring againſt ſhaving, bleeding, and a dark room, when ſo many much more harmleſs madmen are confined in their cells at Bedlam, for being mad only once in a moon? Nay, I have been aſſured by the late ingenious doctor Monro, that ſuch of his patients who are really of a good-natured diſpoſition, and who, in their lucid intervals, were allowed the liberty of walking about the hoſpital, would frequently, when they found the previous ſymptoms of their returning madneſs, voluntarily apply for confinement, conſcious of the miſchief which they might poſſibly do if at liberty. If thoſe who pretend not to be mad, but who really are ſo, had the ſame fund of good-nature, they would make the ſame application to their friends, if they have any.

There is in the Menagiana a very pretty ſtory of one of theſe angry gentlemen, which ſets their extravagancy in a very ridiculous light.

Two gentlemen were riding together, one of whom, who was a choleric one, happened to be mounted on a high-mettled horſe. The horſe grew a little troubleſome; at which the rider grew very angry, and whipped and ſpurred him with great fury; to which the horſe, almoſt as wrongheaded as his maſter, replied

plied with kicking and plunging. The companion, concerned for the danger, and ashamed of the folly of his friend, said to him cooly, "Be quiet, be quiet, "and shew yourself the wiser of the two."

This sort of madness, for I will call it by no other name, flows from various causes, of which I shall now enumerate the most general.

Light unballasted heads are very apt to be overset by every gust, or even breeze, of passion; they appretiate things wrong, and think every thing of importance, but what really is so: hence those frequent and sudden transitions from silly joy to sillier anger, according as the present silly humour is gratified or thwarted. This is the never-failing characteristic of the uneducated vulgar, who often in the same half-hour fight with fury, and shake hands with affection. Such heads give themselves no time to reason; and, if you attempt to reason with them, they think you rally them, and resent the affront. They are, in short, overgrown children, and continue so in the most advanced age. Far be it from me to insinuate, what some ill-bred authors have bluntly asserted, that this is in general the case of the fairest part of our species, whose great vivacity does not always allow them time to reason consequentially, but hurries them into testiness upon the least opposition to their will. But, at the same time, with all the partiality which I have for them, and nobody can have more than I have, I must confess that, in all their debates, I have much more admired the copiousness of their rhetoric, than the conclusiveness of their logic.

People of ſtrong animal ſpirits, warm conſtitutions, and a cold genius, a moſt unfortunate and ridiculous though common compound, are moſt iraſcible animals, and very dangerous in their wrath. They are active, puzzling, blundering, and petulantly enterprizing and perſevering. They are impatient of the leaſt contradiction, having neither arguments nor words to reply with; and the animal part of their compoſition burſts out into furious exploſions, which have often miſchievous conſequences. Nothing is too outrageous or criminal for them to ſay or do in theſe fits; but, as the beginning of their frenzy is eaſily diſcoverable, by their glaring eyes, inflamed countenances, and rapid motions, the company, as conſervators of the peace, which, by the way, every man is till the authority of a magiſtrate can be procured, ſhould forcibly ſeize theſe madmen, and confine them in the mean time in ſome dark cloſet, vault, or coal-hole.

Men of nice honor, without one grain of common honeſty, for ſuch there are, are wonderfully combuſtible. The honorable is to ſupport and protect the diſhoneſt part of their character. The conſciouſneſs of their guilt makes them both ſore and jealous.

There is another and very iraſcible ſort of human animals, whoſe madneſs proceeds from pride. Theſe are generally the people, who, having juſt fortunes ſufficient to live idle, and uſeleſs to ſociety, create themſelves gentlemen, and are ſcrupulouſly tender of the rank and dignity which they have not. They require the more reſpect, from being conſcious that they have no right to any. They conſtrue every

thing

thing into a ſlight, aſk explanations with heat, and miſunderſtand them with fury. "Who are you? "What are you? Do you know who you ſpeak to? "I will teach you to be ſilent to a gentleman," are their daily idioms of ſpeech, which frequently end in aſſault and battery, to the great emolument of the Round-houſe and Crown-office.

I have known many young fellows, who, at their firſt ſetting out into the world, or in the army, have ſimulated a paſſion which they did not feel, merely as an indication of *ſpirit*, which word is falſely looked upon as ſynonymous with courage. They dreſs and look fierce, ſwear enormouſly, and rage furiouſly, ſeduced by that popular word, *ſpirit*. But I beg leave to inform theſe miſtaken young gentlemen, whoſe error I compaſſionate, that the true ſpirit of a rational being conſiſts in cool and ſteady reſolution, which can only be the reſult of reflection and virtue.

I am very ſorry to be obliged to own, that there is not a more irritable part of the ſpecies, than my brother authors. Criticiſm, cenſure, or even the ſlighteſt diſapprobation of their immortal works, excite their moſt furious indignation. It is true, indeed, that they expreſs their reſentment in a manner leſs dangerous both to others and to themſelves. Like incenſed porcupines, they dart their quills at the objects of their wrath. The wounds given by theſe ſhafts are not mortal, and only painful in proportion to the diſtance from whence they fly. Thoſe which are diſcharged, as by much the greateſt numbers are, from great heights, ſuch as garrets or four-pair-of-ſtair rooms, are puffed away by the wind,

and never hit the mark; but those which are let off from a first or second floor, are apt to occasion a little smarting, and sometimes festering, especially if the party wounded be unsound.

Our GREAT CREATOR has wisely given us passions, to rouze us into action, and to engage our gratitude to him by the pleasures they procure us; but, at the same time, he has kindly given us reason sufficient, if we will but give that reason fair play, to controul those passions; and has delegated authority to say to them, as he said to the waters, "thus far shall ye "go, and no farther." The angry man is his own severest tormentor; his breast knows no peace, while his raging passions are restrained by no sense of either religious or moral duties. What would be his case, if his unforgiving example, if I may use such an expression, were followed by his ALL-MERCIFUL MAKER, whose forgiveness he can only hope for, in proportion as he himself forgives and loves his fellow-creatures!

XLV.

THE WORLD.

THURSDAY, Oct. 7, 1756. N° 197.

IF we give credit to the vulgar opinion, or even to the assertions of some reputable authors, both antient and modern, poor human nature was not originally formed for keeping: every age has degenerated;

nerated; and, from the fall of the first man, my unfortunate ancestor, our species has been tumbling on, century by century, from bad to worse, for about six thousand years.

Considering this progressive state of deterioration, it is a very great mercy that things are no worse with us at present; since, geometrically speaking, the human ought by this time to have sunk infinitely below the brute and the vegetable species, which are neither of them supposed to have dwindled or degenerated considerably, except in a very few instances: for it must be owned that our modern oaks are inferior to those of Dodona, our breed of horses to that of the Centaurs, and our breed of fowls to that of the Phœnixes.

But is this really the case? Certainly not. It is only one of those many errors which are artfully scattered by the designs of a few, and blindly adopted by the ignorance and folly of the many. The moving exclamations of—*these sad times! this degenerate age!* the affecting lamentations over *declining virtue* and *triumphant vice*, and the tender and final farewell bidden every day to unrewarded and discouraged public spirit, arts, and sciences, are the common-place topics of the pride, the envy, and the malignity, of the human heart, that can more easily forgive, and even commend, antiquated and remote, than bear cotemporary and contiguous, merit. Men of these mean sentiments have always been the satirists of their own, and the panegyrists of former times. They give this tone, which fools, like birds in the dark, catch by ear, and whistle all day long.

As

As it has constantly been my endeavor to root out, if I could, or, if I could not, to expose, the vices of the human heart, it shall be the object of this day's paper to examine this strange inverted entail of virtue and merit upwards, according to priority of birth, and seniority of age. I shall prove it to be forged, and consequently null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

If I loved to jingle, I would say that human nature has always been invariably the same, though always varying; that is, the same in substance, but varying in forms and modes, from many concurrent causes, of which perhaps we know but few. Climate, education, accidents, severally contribute to change those modes; but in all climates, and in all ages, we discover through them the same passions, affections, and appetites, and the same degree of virtues and vices.

This being unquestionably the true state of the case, which it would be endless to bring instances to prove, from the histories of all times and of all nations, I shall, by way of warning to the incautious, and of reproof to the designing, proceed to explain the reasons, which I have but just hinted at above, why the human nature of the time being has always been reckoned the worst and most degenerate.

Authors, especially poets, though great men, are, alas! but men; and, like other men, subject to the weaknesses of human nature, though perhaps in a less degree: but it is however certain that their breasts are not absolutely strangers to the passions of jealousy, pride, and envy. Hence it is that they are

very apt to measure merit by the century, to love dead authors better than living ones, and to love them the better, the longer they have been dead. The Augustan age is therefore their favorite æra, being at least seventeen hundred years distant from the present. That emperor was not only a judge of wit, but, for an emperor, a tolerable performer too; and Mæcenas, his first minister, was both a patron and a poet: he not only encouraged and protected, but fed and fattened men of wit at his own table, as appears from Horace: no small encouragement for panegyric. Those were times indeed for genius to display itself! It was honored, tasted, and rewarded. But now —— *O tempora! O mores!* One must however do justice to the authors, who thus declaim against their own times, by acknowledging that they are seldom the aggressors; their own times have commonly begun with them. It is their resentment, not their judgment, if they have any, that speaks this language. Anger and despair make them endeavour to lower that merit, which, till brought very low indeed, they are conscious they cannot equal.

There is another and more numerous set of much greater men, who still more loudly complain of the ignorance, the corruption, and the degeneracy, of the present age. These are the consummate volunteer, but unregarded and unrewarded politicians, who, at a modest computation, amount to at least three millions of souls in this political country, and who are all of them both able and willing to steer the great vessel of the state, and to take upon themselves the whole load of business, and burthen of *employments*, for the service

ſervice of their dear country. The adminiſtration for the time being is always the worſt, the moſt incapable, the moſt corrupt, that ever was, and negligent of every thing but their own intereſt. *Where are now your Cecils and your Walſinghams?* Thoſe who aſk that queſtion could anſwer it, if they would ſpeak out, *Themſelves:* for they are all that, and more too.

I ſtept the other day, in order only to inquire how my poor country did, into a coffee-houſe, that is without diſpute the ſeat of the ſoundeſt politics in this great metropolis, and ſat myſelf down within ear-ſhot of the principal council-table. Fortunately for me, the preſident, a perſon of age, dignity, and becoming gravity, had juſt begun to ſpeak. He ſtated, with infinite perſpicuity and knowledge, the preſent ſtate of affairs in other countries, and the lamentable ſituation of our own. He traced with his finger upon the table, by the help of ſome coffee which he had ſpilt in the warmth of his exordium, the whole courſe of the Ohio, and the boundaries of the Ruſſian, Pruſſian, Auſtrian, and Saxon dominions; foreſaw a long and bloody war upon the continent, calculated the ſupplies neceſſary for carrying it on, and pointed out the beſt methods of raiſing them, which, for that very reaſon, he intimated, would not be purſued. He wound up his diſcourſe with a moſt pathetic peroration, which he concluded with ſaying, *Things were not carried on in this manner in queen Elizabeth's days; the public was conſidered, and able men were conſulted and employed. Thoſe were days!* "Aye, ſir, "and nights too, I preſume," ſaid a young fellow who ſtood near him, "ſome longer and ſome ſhorter,

"according

"according to the variation of the ſeaſons; pretty "much like ours." Mr. Preſident was a little ſurprized at the ſuddenneſs and pertneſs of this interruption; but, recompoſing himſelf, anſwered with that cool contempt that becomes a great man, "I did "not mean aſtronomical days, but political ones." The young fellow replied, "O then, ſir, I am your "ſervant," and went off in a laugh.

Thus informed and edified, I went off too, but could not help reflecting in my way upon the ſingular ill-luck of this my dear country, which, as long as ever I remember it, and as far back as I have read, has always been governed by the only two or three people, out of two or three millions, totally incapable of governing, and unfit to be truſted. But theſe reflections were ſoon interrupted by numbers of people, whom I obſerved crowding into a public houſe. Among them I diſcovered my worthy friend and taylor, that induſtrious mechanic, Mr. Regnier. I applied to him, to know the meaning of that concourſe; to which, with his uſual humanity, he anſwered, "We "are the maſter-taylors, who are to meet to-night to "conſider what is to be done about our journeymen, "who inſult and impoſe upon us, to the great detri-"ment of trade." I aſked him whether, under his protection, I might ſlip in and hear their deliberations? He ſaid, "Yes, and welcome; for that they ſhould "do nothing to be aſhamed of." I profited of this permiſſion, and, following him into the room, found a conſiderable number of theſe ingenious artiſts aſſembled, and waiting only for the arrival of my friend, who it ſeems was too conſiderable for buſineſs to

begin

begin without him. He accordingly took the lead, opened the meeting with a very handſome ſpeech, in which he gave many inſtances of the inſolence, the unreaſonableneſs, and the exorbitant demands, of the journeymen taylors, and concluded with obſerving, "that, if the government minded any thing now-a-"days but themſelves, ſuch abuſes would not have "been ſuffered; and, had they been but attempted "in queen Elizabeth's days, ſhe would have *worked* "them with a witneſs." Another orator then roſe up to ſpeak; but, as I was ſure that he could ſay nothing better than what had juſt fallen from my worthy friend, I ſtole off unobſerved, and was purſuing my way home, when in the very next ſtreet I diſcovered a much greater number of people, though by their dreſs of ſeemingly inferior note, ruſhing into another public-houſe. As numbers always excite my curioſity, almoſt as much as they do each other's paſſions, I crowded in with them, in order to diſcover the object of this meeting, not without ſome ſuſpicion that this frequent ſenate might be compoſed of the journeymen taylors, and convened in oppoſition to that which I had juſt left. My ſuſpicion was ſoon confirmed by the eloquence of a journeyman, a finiſher I preſume, who expatiated, with equal warmth and dignity, upon the injuſtice and oppreſſion of the maſter taylors, to the utter ruin of thouſands of poor journeymen and their families; and concluded with aſſerting, "it was a ſhame that the government and "the parliament did not take care of ſuch abuſes; "and that, had the maſter taylors done theſe things

"in

" in queen Elizabeth's days, she would have *mastered* " them with a vengeance, so she would."

I confess I could not help smiling at this singular conformity of sentiments, and almost of expressions, of the master politicians, the master taylors, and the journeymen taylors. I am convinced that the two latter really and honestly believed what they said; it not being in the least improbable that their understandings should be the dupes of their interests: but I will not so peremptorily answer for the interior conviction of the political orator, though at the same time I must do him the justice to say, he seemed full dull enough to be very much in earnest.

The several scenes of this day suggested to me when I got home various reflections, which perhaps I may communicate to my readers in some future paper.

XLVI.

SPEECH ON THE *LICENSING BILL.*

THE editor, being desirous of giving a specimen of lord Chesterfield's eloquence, has made choice of the three following speeches; the first in the strong nervous style of Demosthenes; the two latter, in the witty, ironical manner of Tully. That he had studied with attention these great models, and endeavoured to imitate them, will not escape the notice of those, who will be at the trouble of comparing their orations with his. But his imitation is that of a man of genius and taste, who improves whatever he

he touches, not of that herd of retailers ſo juſtly diſtinguiſhed by the name of *imitatores, ſervile pecus.*

The firſt abſtract of this ſpeech, on the licenſing bill, appeared in Fog's Journal, N° 5. It was incorrect and defective, eſpecially in the part relating to the line of the poet, applied to Pompey. This gave a handle to the authors of the Gazetteer, ever on the watch on theſe occaſions, to fall upon the noble ſpeaker, and to refer him to Tully, to whom we owe the fulleſt account of this occurrence, *Ep. ad Att.* II. 19. Their triumph was ſhort, and the ſpeech was publiſhed in the Magazines the very next month, probably not without the earl's conſent, and thence verbatim in the debates of the houſe of lords, vol. V. p. 210. The following abſtract from theſe will be ſufficient to give an idea of the ſubject of the diſcourſe. "The only remarkable (occurrence) of this ſeſſion, which remains to be taken notice of, is contained in the proceedings upon the bill, to explain and amend ſo much of an act made in the twelfth year of the reign of queen Anne, entituled, *An act for reducing the laws relating to rogues, vagabonds, ſturdy beggars and vagrants, into one act of parliament; and for the more effectual puniſhing ſuch rogues, vagabonds, ſturdy beggars, and vagrants, and ſending them whither they ought to be ſent, as relates to common players of interludes.* The bill, which was paſſed into a law, and remains ſtill in force, was ordered by the houſe of commons to be prepared and brought-in on Friday the 20th of May, and

" was occaſioned by a farce called *the golden rump*,
" which had been brought to the then maſter * of
" the theatre in Lincoln's-inn-fields, who, upon
" peruſal, found it was deſigned as a libel upon
" the government, and therefore, inſtead of having
" it acted, he carried it to a gentleman concerned
" in the adminiſtration; and he having commu-
" nicated it to ſome other members of the houſe of
" commons, it was reſolved to move for leave to
" bring-in a bill for preventing any ſuch attempt
" for the future; and the motion being complied
" with by that houſe upon the 20th of May, 1737,
" the bill was brought-in on Tueſday the 24th,
" and paſſed through both houſes with ſuch diſ-
" patch, that it was ready for the royal aſſent by
" Wedneſday the 8th of June, and accordingly re-
" ceived the royal aſſent on Tueſday the 21ſt,
" when his majeſty put an end to this ſeſſion of
" parliament.

" In both houſes there were long debates, and
" great oppoſition to this bill, in every ſtep it
" made; and in the houſe of lords the following
" is the ſubſtance of what was ſaid by the earl
" of Cheſterfield againſt it, viz:

" MY LORDS,

THE bill now before you I apprehend to be of a very extraordinary, a very dangerous, nature. It ſeems deſigned not only as a reſtraint on the licentiouſneſs of the ſtage; but it will prove a moſt arbi-

* One Mr. Giffard, who had removed thither with a company of players from Goodman's-fields, where he had a theatre, which was ſilenced by this very act.

trary reſtraint on the liberty of the ſtage; and I fear it looks yet further, I fear it tends towards a reſtraint on the liberty of the preſs, which will be a long ſtride towards the deſtruction of liberty itſelf. It is not only a bill, my lords, of a very extraordinary nature, but it has been brought in at a very extraordinary ſeaſon, and puſhed with moſt extraordinary diſpatch. When I conſidered how near it was to the end of the ſeſſion, and how long this ſeſſion had been protracted beyond the uſual time of the year; when I conſidered that this bill paſſed through the other houſe with ſo much precipitancy, as even to get the ſtart of a bill which deſerved all the reſpect, and all the diſpatch, the forms of either houſe of parliament could admit of; it ſet me upon inquiring, what could be the reaſon for introducing this bill at ſo unſeaſonable a time, and preſſing it forward in a manner ſo very ſingular and uncommon. I have made all poſſible inquiry; and as yet, I muſt confeſs, I am at a loſs to find out the great occaſion. I have, it is true, learned from common report without doors, that a moſt ſeditious, a moſt heinous farce had been offered to one of the theatres, a farce for which the authors ought to be puniſhed in the moſt exemplary manner: but what was the conſequence? The maſter of that theatre behaved as he was in duty bound, and as common prudence directed: he not only refuſed to bring it upon the ſtage, but carried it to a certain honorable gentleman in the adminiſtration, as the ſureſt method of having it abſolutely ſuppreſſed. Could this be the occaſion of introducing ſuch an extraordinary bill, at ſuch an extraordinary ſeaſon, and puſhing it in ſo extraordinary a man-

a manner? Surely no:—The dutiful behaviour of the players, the prudent caution they ſhewed upon that occaſion, can never be a reaſon for ſubjecting them to ſuch an arbitrary reſtraint: it is an argument in their favour; and a material one, in my opinion, againſt the bill. Nay farther, if we conſider all circumſtances, it is to me a full proof that the laws now in being are ſufficient for puniſhing thoſe players who ſhall venture to bring any ſeditious libel upon the ſtage, and conſequently ſufficient for deterring all the players from acting any thing that may have the leaſt tendency towards giving a reaſonable offence.

I do not, my lords, pretend to be a lawyer, I do not pretend to know perfectly the power and extent of our laws; but I have converſed with thoſe that do, and by them I have been told, that our laws are ſufficient for puniſhing any perſon that ſhall dare to repreſent upon the ſtage what may appear, either by the words or the repreſentation, to be blaſphemous, ſeditious, or immoral. I muſt own, indeed, I have obſerved of late a remarkable licentiouſneſs in the ſtage. There have but very lately been two plays acted, which one would have thought ſhould have given the greateſt offence; and yet both were ſuffered to be often repreſented without diſturbance, without cenſure. In one *, the author thought fit to repreſent the three great profeſſions, religion, phyſic, and law, as inconſiſtent with common ſenſe: in the other †, a moſt tragical ſtory was brought upon the ſtage, a cataſtrophe too recent, too melancholy, and of too ſolemn a nature, to be heard of any where but from the pulpit.

* Paſquin, a comedy. † King Charles I, a tragedy.

How theſe pieces came to paſs unpuniſhed, I do not know; if I am rightly informed, it was not for want of law, but for want of proſecution, without which no law can be made effectual: but if there was any neglect in this caſe, I am convinced it was not with a deſign to prepare the minds of the people, and to make them think a new law neceſſary.

Our ſtage ought certainly, my lords, to be kept within due bounds; but for this, our laws, as they ſtand at preſent, are ſufficient. If our ſtage-players at any time exceed thoſe bounds, they ought to be proſecuted, they may be puniſhed: we have precedents, we have examples of perſons having been puniſhed for things leſs criminal than either of the two pieces I have mentioned. A new law muſt therefore be unneceſſary, and in the preſent caſe it cannot be unneceſſary without being dangerous: every unneceſſary reſtraint on licentiouſneſs is a fetter upon the legs, is a ſhackle upon the hands, of liberty. One of the greateſt bleſſings we enjoy, one of the greateſt bleſſings a people, my lords, can enjoy, is liberty; but every good in this life has its alloy of evil. Licentiouſneſs is the alloy of liberty: it is an ebullition, an excreſcence; it is a ſpeck upon the eye of the political body, which I can never touch but with a gentle, with a trembling hand, leſt I deſtroy the body, leſt I injure the eye upon which it is apt to appear. If the ſtage becomes at any time licentious, if a play appears to be a libel upon the government, or upon any particular man, the king's courts are open, the law is ſufficient for puniſhing the offender; and in this caſe the perſon injured has a ſingular advantage, he

can

can be under no difficulty to prove who is the publiſher; the players themſelves are the publiſhers, and there can be no want of evidence to convict them.

But, my lords, ſuppoſe it true, that the laws now in being are not ſufficient for putting a check to, or preventing, the licentiouſneſs of the ſtage; ſuppoſe it abſolutely neceſſary ſome new law ſhould be made for that purpoſe: yet it muſt be granted, that ſuch a law ought to be maturely conſidered, and every clauſe, every ſentence, nay every word of it, well-weighed and examined, leſt, under ſome of thoſe methods preſumed or pretended to be neceſſary for reſtraining licentiouſneſs, a power ſhould lie concealed, which might be afterwards made uſe of for giving a dangerous wound to liberty. Such a law ought not to be introduced at the cloſe of a ſeſſion; nor ought we, in the paſſing of ſuch a law, to depart from any of the forms preſcribed by our anceſtors for preventing deceit and ſurprize. There is ſuch a connection between licentiouſneſs and liberty, that it is not eaſy to correct the one, without dangerouſly wounding the other; it is extremely hard to diſtinguiſh the true limit between them: like a changeable ſilk, we can eaſily ſee there are two different colors, but we cannot eaſily diſcover where the one ends, or where the other begins. There can be no great and immediate danger from the licentiouſneſs of the ſtage: I hope it will not be pretended, that our government may, before next winter, be overturned by ſuch licentiouſneſs, even though our ſtage were at preſent under no ſort of controul. Why then may we not delay till next ſeſſion paſſing any law againſt the licentiouſneſs of

the ſtage? Neither our government can be altered, nor our conſtitution overturned, by ſuch a delay; but by paſſing a law raſhly and unadviſedly, our conſtitution may at once be deſtroyed, and our government rendered arbitrary. Can we then put a ſmall, a ſhort-lived inconvenience in the balance with perpetual ſlavery? Can it be ſuppoſed, that a parliament of Great Britain will ſo much as riſk the latter, for the ſake of avoiding the former?

Surely, my lords, this is not to be expected, were the licentiouſneſs of the ſtage much greater than it is, were the inſufficiency of our laws more obvious than can be pretended; but when we complain of the licentiouſneſs of the ſtage, and the inſufficiency of our laws, I fear we have more reaſon to complain of bad meaſures in our polity, and a general decay of virtue and morality among the people. In public as well as private life, the only way to prevent being ridiculed or cenſured, is to avoid all ridiculous or wicked meaſures, and to purſue ſuch only as are virtuous and worthy. The people never endeavour to ridicule thoſe they love and eſteem, nor will they ſuffer them to be ridiculed: if any one attempts it, the ridicule returns upon the author; he makes himſelf only the object of public hatred and contempt. The actions or behaviour of a private man may paſs unobſerved, and conſequently unapplauded, uncenſured; but the actions of thoſe in high ſtations can neither paſs without notice, nor without cenſure or applauſe; and therefore an adminiſtration, without eſteem, without authority among the people, let their power be never ſo great, let their power be never ſo

arbitrary,

arbitrary, will be ridiculed: the ſevereſt edicts, the moſt terrible puniſhments, cannot prevent it. If any man therefore thinks he has been cenſured, if any man thinks he has been ridiculed, upon any of our public theatres, let him examine his actions, he will find the cauſe; let him alter his conduct, he will find a remedy. As no man is perfect, as no man is infallible, the greateſt may err, the moſt circumſpect may be guilty of ſome piece of ridiculous behaviour. It is not licentiouſneſs, it is an uſeful liberty always indulged the ſtage in a free country, that ſome great men may there meet with a juſt reproof, which none of their friends will be free enough, or rather faithful enough, to give them. Of this we have a famous inſtance in the Roman hiſtory. The great Pompey, after the many victories he had obtained, and the great conqueſts he had made, had certainly a good title to the eſteem of the people of Rome: yet that great man, by ſome error in his conduct, became an object of general diſlike; and therefore in the repreſentation of an old play, when Diphilus, the actor, came to repeat theſe words, *Noſtra miſeria tu es Magnus*, the audience immediately applied them to Pompey, who at that time was as well known by the name Magnus, as by the name Pompey, and were ſo highly pleaſed with the ſatire, that, as Cicero ſays, they made him repeat the words a hundred times over. An account of this was immediately ſent to Pompey, who, inſtead of reſenting it as an injury, was ſo wiſe as to take it for a juſt reproof; he examined his conduct, he altered his meaſures, he regained by degrees the eſteem of the people, and therefore neither feared

the wit, nor felt the ſatire, of the ſtage. This is an example which ought to be followed by great men in all countries. Such accidents will often happen in every free country; and many ſuch would probably have afterwards happened at Rome, if they had continued to enjoy their liberty: but this ſort of liberty on the ſtage came ſoon after, I ſuppoſe, to be called licentiouſneſs; for we are told that Auguſtus, after having eſtabliſhed his empire, reſtored order in Rome by reſtraining licentiouſneſs. God forbid! we ſhould in this country have order reſtored, or licentiouſneſs reſtrained, at ſo dear a rate as the people of Rome paid for it to Auguſtus.

In the caſe I have mentioned, my lords, it was not the poet that wrote, for it was an old play; nor the players that acted, for they only repeated the words of the play: it was the people who pointed the ſatire; and the caſe will always be the ſame. When a man has the misfortune to incur the hatred or contempt of the people, when public meaſures are deſpiſed, the audience will apply what never was, what could not be, deſigned as a ſatire on the preſent times; nay, even though the people ſhould not apply, thoſe, who are conſcious of the wickedneſs or weakneſs of their conduct, will take to themſelves what the author never deſigned. A public thief is as apt to take the ſatire, as he is apt to take the money, which was never deſigned for him. We have an inſtance of this in the caſe of a famous comedian of the laſt age; a comedian who was not only a good poet, but an honeſt man, and a quiet and good ſubject. The famous Moliere, when he wrote his Tartuffe, which

is

is certainly an excellent and a good moral comedy, did not design to satyrize any great man of that age; yet a great man in France at that time took it to himself, and fancied the author had taken him as a model for one of the principal, and one of the worst, characters in that comedy: by good luck he was not the licenser, otherwise the kingdom of France had never had the pleasure, the happiness I may say, of seeing that play acted; but, when the players first purposed to act it at Paris, he had interest enough to get it forbid. Moliere, who knew himself innocent of what was laid to his charge, complained to his patron the prince of Conti, that as his play was designed only to expose hypocrisy, and a false pretence to religion, it was very hard it should be forbid being acted; when at the same time they were suffered to expose religion itself every night publicly upon the Italian stage: to which the prince wittily answered, "It is true, Moliere, Harlequin ridicules "heaven, and exposes religion; but you have done "much worse,—you have ridiculed the first minister "of religion."

I am as much for restraining the licentiousness of the stage, and every sort of licentiousness, as any of your lordships can be: but, my lords, I am, I shall always be, extremely cautious and fearful of making the least encroachment upon liberty; and therefore, when a new law is proposed against licentiousness, I shall always be for considering it deliberately and maturely, before I venture to give my consent to its being passed. This is a sufficient reason for my being against passing this bill at so unseasonable a time,

time, and in so extraordinary a manner; but I have many reasons for being against passing the bill itself, some of which I shall beg leave to explain to your lordships.

The bill, my lords, at first view, may seem to be designed only against the stage; but to me it plainly appears to point somewhere else. It is an arrow, that does but glance upon the stage; the mortal wound seems designed against the liberty of the press. By this bill you prevent a play's being acted, but you do not prevent its being printed; therefore, if a licence should be refused for its being acted, we may depend upon it the play will be printed. It will be printed and published, my lords, with the refusal in capital letters on the title page. People are always fond of what is forbidden. *Libri prohibiti* (prohibited books) are in all countries diligently and generally sought after. It will be much easier to procure a refusal, than it ever was to procure a good house, or a good sale; therefore we may expect, that plays will be wrote on purpose to have a refusal; this will certainly procure a good house or a good sale. Thus will satires be spread and dispersed through the whole nation, and thus every man in the kingdom may, and probably will, read for sixpence what a few only could have seen acted, and that not under the expence of half a crown. We shall then be told, What! will you allow an infamous libel to be printed and dispersed, which you would not allow to be acted? You have agreed to a law to prevent its being acted: can you refuse your assent to a law to prevent its being printed and published?

liſhed? I ſhould really, my lords, be glad to hear, what excuſe, what reaſon one could give for being againſt the latter, after having agreed to the former; for, I proteſt, I cannot ſuggeſt to myſelf the leaſt ſhadow of an excuſe. If we agree to the bill now before us, we muſt, perhaps, next ſeſſion, agree to a bill for preventing any plays being printed without a licence. Then ſatires will be wrote by way of novels, ſecret hiſtories, dialogues, or under ſome ſuch title; and thereupon we ſhall be told, What! will you allow an infamous libel to be printed and diſperſed, only becauſe it does not bear the title of a play? Thus, my lords, from the precedent now before us, we ſhall be induced, nay we can find no reaſon for refuſing, to lay the preſs under a general licence, and then we may bid adieu to the liberties of Great Britain.

But ſuppoſe, my lords, it were neceſſary to make a new law for reſtraining the licentiouſneſs of the ſtage, which I am very far from granting; yet I ſhall never be for eſtabliſhing ſuch a power as is propoſed by this bill. If poets and players are to be reſtrained, let them be reſtrained as other ſubjects are, by the known laws of their country: if they offend, let them be tried, as every Engliſhman ought to be, by God and their country; do not let us ſubject them to the arbitrary will and pleaſure of any one man. A power lodged in the hands of one ſingle man, to judge and determine, without any limitation, without any controul or appeal, is a ſort of power unknown to our laws, inconſiſtent with our conſtitution. It is a higher, a more abſolute power than we truſt even

to

to the king himself; and therefore, I must think, we ought not to vest any such power in his majesty's lord chamberlain. When I say this, I am sure, I do not mean to give the least, the most distant, offence to the noble duke * who now fills the post of lord chamberlain; his natural candor and love of justice would not, I know, permit him to exercise any power, but with the strictest regard to the rules of justice and humanity. Were we sure his successors in that high office would always be persons of such distinguished merit, even the power established by this bill could give no further alarm, than lest it should be made a precedent for introducing other new powers of the same nature. This, indeed, is an alarm which cannot be avoided, which cannot be prevented, by any hope, by any consideration; it is an alarm, which, I think, every man must take, who has a due regard to the constitution and liberties of his country.

I shall admit, my lords, that the stage ought not, upon any occasion, to meddle with politics; and for this very reason, among the rest, I am against the bill now before us. This bill will be so far from preventing the stage's meddling with politics, that, I fear, it will be the occasion of its meddling with nothing else; but then it will be a political stage *ex parte*. It will be made subservient to the politics and the schemes of the court only; the licentiousness of the stage will be encouraged, instead of being restrained, but, like court-journalists, it will be licentious only against the patrons of liberty, and the protectors of the people: whatever man, whatever

* The duke of Grafton.

party,

party, oppoſes the court in any of their moſt deſtructive ſchemes, will, upon the ſtage, be repreſented in the moſt ridiculous light the hirelings of a court can contrive. True patriotiſm, and love of public good, will be repreſented as madneſs, or as a cloak for envy, diſappointment, and malice; whilſt the moſt flagitious crimes, the moſt extravagant vices and follies, if they are faſhionable at court, will be diſguiſed and dreſſed-up in the habit of the moſt amiable virtues. This has formerly been the caſe in king Charles the ſecond's days: the playhouſe was under a licence, what was the conſequence? The playhouſe retailed nothing but the politics, the vices, and the follies of the court; not to expoſe them, no, but to recommend them, though it muſt be granted their politics were often as bad as their vices, and much more pernicious than their other follies. It is true, the court had at that time a great deal of wit, it was then indeed full of men of true wit and great humor; but it was the more dangerous, for the courtiers did then, as thorough-paced courtiers always will do, they ſacrificed their honor by making their wit and their humor ſubſervient to the court only; and, what made it ſtill more dangerous, no man could appear upon the ſtage againſt them. We know that Dryden, the poet-laureat of that reign, always repreſents the cavaliers as honeſt, brave, merry fellows, and fine gentlemen; indeed his fine gentleman, as he generally draws him, is an atheiſtical, lewd, abandoned fellow, which was at that time, it ſeems, the faſhionable character at court; on the other hand, he always repreſents the diſſenters as hypocritical, diſſembling rogues, or ſtupid

ſenſeleſs boobies.—When the court had a mind to fall out with the Dutch, he wrote his Amboyna*, in which he repreſents the Dutch as a pack of avaritious, cruel, ungrateful raſcals:—and when the excluſion-bill was moved in parliament, he wrote his Duke of Guiſe†, in which thoſe who were for preſerving and ſecuring the religion of their country, were expoſed under the character of the duke of Guiſe and his party, who leagued together for excluding Henry IV. of France from the throne, on the account of his religion.—The city of London too was made to feel the partial and mercenary licentiouſneſs of the ſtage at that time; for the citizens having at that time, as well as now, a great deal of property, they had a mind to preſerve that property, and therefore they oppoſed ſome of the arbitrary meaſures which were then begun, but purſued more openly in the following reign; for which reaſon they were then always repreſented upon the ſtage as a parcel of deſigning knaves, diſſembling hypocrites, griping uſurers,—and cuckolds into the bargain.

My lords, the proper buſineſs of the ſtage, and that for which only it is uſeful, is to expoſe thoſe vices and follies, which the laws cannot lay hold of; and to recommend thoſe beauties and virtues, which miniſters and courtiers ſeldom either imitate or re-

* This is not quite exact. The Dutch war began in 1672. The play was acted and printed in 1673.

† This was certainly a party-play, though the occaſion of it may be doubted. It made its appearance in 1683, and was violently attacked by the Whigs. If lord Cheſterfield had implicitly adopted the opinions of his grandfather Halifax, he would ſarcely have ſpoken, as he does here, of the excluſion-bill.

ward. But by laying it under a licence, and under an arbritrary court-licence too, you will, in my opinion, entirely pervert its uſe: for though I have the greateſt eſteem for that noble duke, in whoſe hands this power is at preſent deſigned to fall, though I have an entire confidence in his judgment and impartiality; yet I may ſuppoſe that a leaning towards the faſhions of a court is ſometimes hard to be avoided. It may be very difficult to make one, who is every day at court, believe that to be a vice or folly, which he ſees daily practiſed by thoſe he loves and eſteems. By cuſtom, even deformity itſelf becomes familiar, and at laſt agreeable. To ſuch a perſon, let his natural impartiality be never ſo great, that may appear to be a libel againſt the court, which is only a moſt juſt and a moſt neceſſary ſatire upon the faſhionable vices and follies of the court. Courtiers, my lords, are too polite to reprove one another; the only place where they can meet with any juſt reproof, is a free though not a licentious ſtage; and as every ſort of vice and folly, generally in all countries, begins at court, and from thence ſpreads through the country, by laying the ſtage under an arbitrary court-licence, inſtead of leaving it what it is, and always ought to be, a gentle ſcourge for the vices of great men and courtiers, you will make it a canal for propagating and conveying their vices and follies through the whole kingdom.

From hence, my lords, I think it muſt appear, that the bill now before us cannot ſo properly be called a bill for reſtraining licentiouſneſs, as it may be called a bill for reſtraining the liberty of the ſtage, and for reſtraining it too in that branch which, in all countries,

countries, has been the moſt uſeful; therefore I muſt look upon this bill as a moſt dangerous encroachment upon liberty in general. Nay, farther, my lords, it is not only an encroachment upon liberty, but it is likewiſe an encroachment upon property. Wit, my lords, is a ſort of property: it is the property of thoſe who have it, and too often the only property they have to depend on. It is indeed but a precarious dependence. Thank God! we, my lords, have a dependence of another kind; we have a much leſs precarious ſupport, and therefore cannot feel the inconveniencies of the bill now before us; but it is our duty to encourage and protect wit, whoſeſoever's property it may be. Thoſe gentlemen who have any ſuch property, are all, I hope, our friends. Do not let us ſubject them to any unneceſſary or arbitrary reſtraint. I muſt own, I cannot eaſily agree to the laying of any tax upon wit; but by this bill it is to be heavily taxed, it is to be exciſed; for, if this bill paſſes, it cannot be retailed in a proper way without a permit, and the lord chamberlain is to have the honor of being chief-gauger, ſuperviſor, comiſſioner, judge, and jury. But what is ſtill more hard, though the poor author, the proprietor I ſhould ſay, cannot perhaps dine till he has found out and agreed with a purchaſer; yet, before he can propoſe to ſeek for a purchaſer, he muſt patiently ſubmit to have his goods rummaged at this new exciſe-office, where they may be detained for fourteen days, and even then he may find them returned as prohibited goods, by which his chief and beſt market will be for ever ſhut againſt him; and that without any

cauſe, without the leaſt ſhadow of reaſon, either from the laws of his country, or the laws of the ſtage.

Theſe hardſhips, this hazard, which every gentleman will be expoſed to, who writes any thing for the ſtage, muſt certainly prevent every man of a generous and free ſpirit from attempting any thing in that way; and, as the ſtage has always been the proper channel for wit and humour, therefore, my lords, when I ſpeak againſt this bill, I muſt think, I plead the cauſe of wit, I plead the cauſe of humour, I plead the cauſe of the Britiſh ſtage, and of every gentleman of taſte in the kingdom. But it is not, my lords, for the ſake of wit only; even for the ſake of his majeſty's lord chamberlain, I muſt be againſt this bill. The noble duke who has now the honor to execute that office has, I am ſure, as little inclination to diſoblige as any man; but, if this bill paſſes, he muſt diſoblige, he may diſoblige ſome of his moſt intimate friends. It is impoſſible to write a play, but ſome of the characters, or ſome of the ſatire, may be interpreted ſo as to point at ſome perſon or another, perhaps at ſome perſon in an eminent ſtation. When it comes to be acted, the people will make the application; and the perſon againſt whom the application is made will think himſelf injured, and will at leaſt privately reſent it: at preſent this reſentment can be directed only againſt the author; but, when an author's play appears with my lord chamberlain's paſſport, every ſuch reſentment will be turned from the author, and pointed directly againſt the lord chamberlain, who by his ſtamp made the

piece current. What an unthankful office are we therefore by this bill to put upon his majesty's lord chamberlain! an office which can no way contribute to his honor or profit, and such a one as must necessarily gain him a great deal of ill-will, and create him a number of enemies.

The last reason I shall trouble your lordships with, for my being against the bill, is that, in my opinion, it will in no way answer the end proposed: I mean the end openly proposed; and I am sure the only end which your lordships propose. To prevent the acting of a play which has any tendency to blasphemy, immorality, sedition, or private scandal, can signify nothing, unless you can prevent its being printed and published. On the contrary, if you prevent its being acted, and admit of its being printed, you will propagate the mischief: your prohibition will prove a bellows, which will blow up the fire you intend to extinguish. This bill can therefore be of no use for preventing either the public or the private injury intended by such a play; and consequently can be of no manner of use, unless it be designed as a precedent, as a leading step towards another for subjecting the press likewise to a licenser. For such a wicked purpose it may indeed be of great use; and in that light it may most properly be called a step towards arbitrary power.

Let us consider, my lords, that arbitrary power has seldom or never been introduced into any country at once. It must be introduced by slow degrees, and as it were step by step, lest the people should perceive its approach. The barriers and fences of the people's

liberty muſt be plucked up one by one, and ſome plauſible pretences muſt be found for removing or hood-winking, one after another, thoſe ſentries who are poſted by the conſtitution of a free country, for warning the people of their danger. When theſe preparatory ſteps are once made, the people may then, indeed, with regret, ſee ſlavery and arbitrary power making long ſtrides over their land, but it will be too late to think of preventing or avoiding the impending ruin. The ſtage, my lords, and the preſs, are two of our out-ſentries; if we remove them, if we hood-wink them,—if we throw them in fetters, the enemy may ſurprize us. Therefore I muſt look upon the bill now before us as a ſtep, and a moſt neceſſary ſtep too, for introducing arbitrary power into this kingdom: it is a ſtep ſo neceſſary, that if ever any future ambitious king, or guilty miniſter, ſhould form to himſelf ſo wicked a deſign, he will have reaſon to thank us, for having done ſo much of the work to his hand; but ſuch thanks, or thanks from ſuch a man, I am convinced, every one of your lordſhips would bluſh to receive, and ſcorn to deſerve.

XLVII.

LORD CHESTERFIELD'S first speech on the Gin act *, Feb. 21, 1743, after the second reading of the Bill.

MY LORDS,

THE bill now under our consideration appears to me to deserve a much closer regard than seems to have been paid to it in the other house, through which it was hurried with the utmost precipitation, and where it passed almost without the formality of a debate; nor can I think that earnestness, with which some lords seem inclined to press it forward here, consistent with the importance of the consequences which may with great reason be expected from it.

It has been urged, that where so great a number have formed expectations of a national benefit from any bill, so much deference, at least, is due to their judgment, as that the bill should be considered in a committee. This, my lords, I admit to be in other cases a just and reasonable demand; and will readily allow that the proposal, not only of a considerable number, but even of any single lord, ought to be fully examined, and regularly debated, according to the usual forms of this house. But in the present

* The act of parliament, that had been passed in the 9th year of George II. by which no person was permitted to sell spirituous liquor in less quantity than two gallons, without a licence, for which 50 pounds was to be paid, having proved, from the difficulties in the execution, ineffectual to obstruct the progress of drunkenness among the common people; a new bill was moved and passed in the house of commons, by which a small duty was laid on the spirits *per* gallon at the still-head, and the price of licences reduced to twenty shillings.

case,

caſe, my lords, and in all caſes like the preſent, this demand is improper, becauſe it is uſeleſs; and it is uſeleſs, becauſe we can do now all that we can do hereafter in a committee. For the bill before us is a money-bill, which, according to the preſent opinion of the commons, we have no right to amend, and which therefore we have no need of conſidering in a committee, ſince the event of all our deliberations muſt be, that we are either to reject or paſs it in its preſent ſtate. For I ſuppoſe no lord will think this a proper time to enter into a controverſy with the commons, for the revival of thoſe privileges to which I believe we have a right; and ſuch a controverſy, the leaſt attempt to amend a money-bill will certainly produce.

To deſire therefore, my lords, that this bill may be conſidered in a committee, is only to deſire that it may gain one ſtep without oppoſition; that it may proceed through the forms of the houſe by ſtealth, and that the conſideration of it may be delayed, till the exigencies of the government ſhall be ſo great, as not to allow time for raiſing the ſupplies by any other method.

By this artifice, groſs as it is, the patrons of this wonderful bill hope to obſtruct a plain and open detection of its tendency. They hope, my lords, that the bill ſhall operate in the ſame manner with the liquor which it is intended to bring into more general uſe; and that, as thoſe who drink ſpirits are drunk before they are well aware that they are drinking, the effects of this law ſhall be perceived before we know that we have made it. Their intent is, to give us a

dram of policy, which is to be ſwallowed before it is taſted, and which, when once it is ſwallowed, will turn our heads.

But, my lords, I hope we ſhall be ſo cautious as to examine the draught which theſe ſtate empirics have thought proper to offer us; and I am confident that a very little examination will convince us of the pernicious qualities of their new preparation, and ſhew that it can have no other effect than that of poiſoning the public.

The law before us, my lords, ſeems to be the effect of that practice of which it is intended likewiſe to be the cauſe, and to be dictated by the liquor of which it ſo effectually promotes the uſe; for ſurely it never before was conceived, by any man intruſted with the adminiſtration of public affairs, to raiſe taxes by the deſtruction of the people."

Nothing, my lords, but the deſtruction of all the moſt laborious and uſeful part of the nation, can be expected from the licence which is now propoſed to be given, not only to drunkenneſs, but to drunkenneſs of the moſt deteſtable and dangerous kind, to the abuſe not only of intoxicating, but of poiſonous liquors.

Nothing, my lords, is more abſurd than to aſſert, that the uſe of ſpirits will be hindered by the bill now before us, or indeed that it will not be in a very great degree promoted by it. For what produces all kind of wickedneſs, but the proſpect of impunity on one part, or the ſolicitation of opportunity on the other? Either of theſe have too frequently been ſufficient to overpower the ſenſe of morality, and even of religion; and

and what is not to be feared from them, when they shall unite their force, and operate together, when temptations shall be increased, and terror taken away?

It is allowed, by those who have hitherto disputed on either side of this question, that the people appear obstinately enamoured of this new liquor; it is allowed on both parts, that this liquor corrupts the mind, and enervates the body, and destroys vigor and virtue, at the same time that it makes those who drink it too idle and too feeble for work; and, while it impoverishes them by the present expence, disables them from retrieving its ill consequences by subsequent industry.

It might be imagined, my lords, that those who had thus far agreed would not easily find any occasions of dispute; nor would any man, unacquainted with the motives by which parliamentary debates are too often influenced, suspect that after the pernicious qualities of this liquor, and the general inclination among the people to the immoderate use of it, had been generally admitted, it could be afterwards inquired, whether it ought to be made more common, whether this universal thirst for poison ought to be encouraged by the legislature, and whether a new statute ought to be made, to secure drunkards in the gratification of their appetites.

To pretend, my lords, that the design of this bill is to prevent or diminish the use of spirits, is to trample upon common sense, and to violate the rules of decency as well as of reason. For when did any man hear, that a commodity was prohibited by licensing its sale, or that to offer and refuse is the same action?

It is indeed pleaded, that it will be made dearer by the tax which is propoſed, and that the increaſe of the price will diminiſh the number of the purchaſers; but it is at the ſame time expected, that this tax ſhall ſupply the expence of a war on the continent. It is aſſerted therefore, that the conſumption of ſpirits will be hindered; and yet that it will be ſuch as may be expected to furniſh, from a very ſmall tax, a revenue ſufficient for the ſupport of armies, for the re-eſtabliſhment of the Auſtrian family, and the repreſſing of the attempts of France.

Surely, my lords, theſe expectations are not very conſiſtent; nor can it be imagined that they are both formed in the ſame head, though they may be expreſſed by the ſame mouth. It is however ſome recommendation of a ſtateſman, when, of his aſſertions, one can be found reaſonable or true; and in this, praiſe cannot be denied to our preſent miniſters: for though it is undoubtedly falſe, that this tax will leſſen the conſumption of ſpirits, it is certainly true that it will produce a very large revenue, a revenue that will not fail but with the people from whoſe debaucheries it ariſes.

Our miniſters will therefore have the ſame honor with their predeceſſors, of having given riſe to a new fund, not indeed for the payment of our debts, but for much more valuable purpoſes, for the cheering of our hearts under oppreſſion, and for the ready ſupport of thoſe debts which we have loſt hopes of paying. They are reſolved, my lords, that the nation, which no endeavours can make wiſe, ſhall, while they are at its head, at leaſt be merry; and, ſince public happi-

neſs

nefs is the end of government, they feem to imagine that they fhall deferve applaufe by an expedient, which will enable every man to lay his cares afleep, to drown forrow, and lofe in the delights of drunkenneſs both the public miſeries and his own.

Luxury, my lords, is to be taxed, but vice prohibited, let the difficulties in executing the law be what they will. Would you lay a tax upon a breach of the ten commandments? Would not fuch a tax be wicked and fcandalous; becaufe it would imply an indulgence to all thofe who could pay the tax? Is not this a reproach moft juftly thrown by proteftants upon the church of Rome? Was it not the chief caufe of the Reformation? And will you follow a precedent which brought reproach and ruin upon thofe that introduced it? This is the very cafe now before us. You are going to lay a tax, and conſequently to indulge a ſort of drunkenneſs, which almoſt neceſſarily produces a breach of every one of the ten commandments. Can you expect the reverend bench will approve of this? I am convinced they will not, and therefore I wiſh I had ſeen it full upon this occaſion. I am ſure I have ſeen it much fuller upon ſome other occaſions, in which religion had no ſuch deep concern.

We have already, my lords, ſeveral ſorts of funds in this nation, ſo many that a man muſt have a good deal of learning to be maſter of them. Thanks to his majeſty, we have now amongſt us the moſt learned man of the nation in this way. I wiſh he would riſe up and tell us, what name we are to give to this new fund. We have already the civil liſt fund, the ſinking

fund,

fund, the aggregate fund, the South-sea fund, and God knows how many others. What name we are to give to this new fund I know not, unless we are to call it the drinking fund. It may perhaps enable the people of a certain foreign territory to drink claret, but it will disable the people of this kingdom from drinking any thing else but gin; for, when a man has, by gin-drinking, rendered himself unfit for labor or business, he can purchase nothing else, and then the best thing he can do is to drink on till he dies.

Surely, my lords, men of such unbounded benevolence, as our present ministers, deserve such honors as were never paid before: they deserve to bestride a butt upon every sign-post in the city, or to have their figures exhibited as tokens where this liquor is to be sold by the licence which they have procured. They must be at least remembered to future ages, as the happy politicians, who, after all expedients for raising taxes had been employed, discovered a new method of draining the last reliques of the public wealth, and added a new revenue to the government: nor will those, who shall hereafter enumerate the several funds now established among us, forget among the benefactors to their country the illustrious authors of the drinking fund.

May I be allowed, my lords, to congratulate my countrymen and fellow-subjects upon the happy times which are now approaching, in which no man will be disqualified from the privilege of being drunk; when all discontent and disloyalty shall be forgotten, and the people, though now considered by the ministry as enemies, shall acknowledge the lenity of that

government,

government, under which all reſtraints are taken away?

But, to a bill for ſuch deſirable purpoſes, it would be proper, my lords, to prefix a preamble, in which the kindneſs of our intentions ſhould be more fully explained, that the nation may not miſtake our indulgence for cruelty, nor conſider their benefactors as their perſecutors. If therefore this bill be conſidered and amended (for why elſe ſhould it be conſidered?) in a committee, I ſhall humbly propoſe, that it ſhall be introduced in this manner. "Where-"as the deſigns of the preſent miniſtry, whatever they "are, cannot be executed without a great number of "mercenaries, which mercenaries cannot be hired "without money; and whereas the preſent diſpoſition "of this nation to drunkenneſs inclines us to believe, "that they will pay more chearfully for the undiſ-"turbed enjoyment of diſtilled liquors, than for any "other conceſſion that can be made by the govern-"ment; be it enacted, by the king's moſt excellent "majeſty, that no man ſhall hereafter be denied the "right of being drunk on the following condi-"tions."

This, my lords, to triſle no longer, is the proper preamble to this bill, which contains only the conditions on which the people of this kingdom are to be allowed henceforward to riot in debauchery, in debauchery licenſed by law, and countenanced by the magiſtrates. For there is no doubt but thoſe, on whom the inventors of this tax ſhall confer authority, will be directed to aſſiſt their maſters in their deſign to encourage the conſumption of that liquor, from

which

which such large revenues are expected, and to multiply without end those licences which are to pay a yearly tribute to the crown.

By this unbounded licence, my lords, that price will be lessened, from the increase of which the expectations of the efficacy of this law are pretended; for the number of retailers will lessen the value, as in all other cases, and lessen it more than this tax will increase it. Besides, it is to be considered, that at present the retailer expects to be paid for the danger which he incurs by an unlawful trade, and will not trust his reputation or his purse to the mercy of his customer, without a profit proportioned to the hazard; but, when once the restraint shall be taken away, he will sell for common gain, and it can hardly be imagined that, at present, he subjects himself to informations and penalties for less than six-pence a gallon.

The specious pretence, on which this bill is founded, and indeed the only pretence that deserves to be termed specious, is the propriety of taxing vice; but this maxim of government has, on this occasion, been either mistaken or perverted. Vice, my lords, is not properly to be taxed, but suppressed; and heavy taxes are sometimes the only means by which that suppression can be attained. Luxury, my lords, or the excess of that which is pernicious only by its excess, may very properly be taxed, that such excess, though not strictly unlawful, may be made more difficult. But the use of these things which are simply hurtful, hurtful in their own nature, and in every degree, is to be prohibited. None, my lords, ever heard in any nation of a tax upon theft or adultery, because a tax

implies

implies a licence granted for the use of that which is taxed, to all who shall be willing to pay it.

Drunkenness, my lords, is universally and in all circumstances an evil; and therefore ought not to be taxed, but punished, and the means of it not to be made easy by a slight impost, which none can feel, but to be removed out of the reach of the people, and secured by the heaviest taxes, levied with the utmost rigor. I hope those, to whose care the religion of the nation is particularly consigned, will unanimously join with me in maintaining the necessity, not of taxing vice, but suppressing it, and unite for the rejecting of a bill, by which the future, as well as present, happiness of thousands must be destroyed.

XLVIII.

LORD CHESTERFIELD'S second speech on the Gin act, February 24, 1743.

MY LORDS,

THOUGH the noble lord * who has been pleased to excite us to an unanimous concurrence with himself and his associates in the ministry, in passing the excellent and wonder-working bill; this bill which is to lessen the consumption of spirits, without lessening the quantity which is distilled; which is to restrain drunkards from drinking, by setting their favourite liquor always before their eyes; to conquer habits by continuing them; and correct vice by indulging it, according to the lowest

* The duke of Newcastle.

reckoning,

reckoning, for at leaſt another year; ſtill, my lords, ſuch is my obſtinacy, or ſuch my ignorance, that I cannot yet comply with his propoſal, nor can prevail with myſelf either to concur with meaſures ſo apparently oppoſite to the intereſt of the public, or to hear them vindicated, without declaring how little I approve it.

During the courſe of this long debate, I have endeavoured to recapitulate and digeſt the arguments which have been advanced, and have conſidered them both ſeparately and conjointly, but find myſelf at the ſame diſtance from conviction as when I firſt entered the houſe.

In vindication of this bill, my lords, we have been told that the preſent law is ineffectual; that our manufacture is not to be deſtroyed; or not this year; that the ſecurity offered by the preſent bill has induced great numbers to ſubſcribe to the new fund; that it has been approved by the commons; and that, if it be found ineffectual, it may be amended another ſeſſion.

All theſe arguments, my lords, I ſhall endeavour to examine, becauſe I am always deſirous of gratifying thoſe great men to whom the adminiſtration of affairs is intruſted, and have always very cautiouſly avoided the odium of diſaffection, which they will undoubtedly throw, in imitation of their predeceſſors, upon all thoſe whoſe wayward conſciences ſhall oblige them to hinder the execution of their ſchemes.

With a very ſtrong deſire, therefore, though with no great hopes, of finding them in the right, I venture to begin my inquiry, and engage in the examination

nation of their firſt aſſertion, that the preſent law againſt the abuſe of ſtrong liquors is without effect.

I hope, my lords, it portends well to my inquiry, that the firſt poſition which I have to examine is true; nor can I forbear to congratulate your lordſhips upon having heard from the new miniſtry one aſſertion not to be contradicted.

It is evident, my lords, from daily obſervation, and demonſtrable from the papers upon the table, that every year, ſince the enacting of the laſt law, that vice has increaſed which it was intended to repreſs, and that no time has been ſo favourable to the retailers of ſpirits as that which has paſſed ſince they were prohibited.

It may therefore be expected, my lords, that, having agreed with the miniſters in their fundamental propoſition, I ſhall concur with them in the conſequence which they draw from it; and, having allowed that the preſent law is ineffectual, ſhould admit that another is neceſſary.

But, my lords, in order to diſcover whether this conſequence be neceſſary, it muſt firſt be inquired why the preſent law is of no force? For, my lords, it will be found, upon reflection, that there are certain degrees of corruption that may hinder the effect of the beſt laws. The magiſtrates may be vicious, and forbear to enforce that law by which themſelves are condemned; they may be indolent, and inclined rather to connive at wickedneſs, by which they are not injured themſelves, than to repreſs it by a laborious exertion of their authority; or they may be timorous, and, inſtead of awing the vicious, may be awed by them.

In

In any of these cases, my lords, the law is not to be condemned for its inefficacy, since it only fails by the defect of those who are to direct its operations. The best and most important laws will contribute very little to the security or happiness of a people, if no judges of integrity and spirit can be found amongst them. Even the most beneficial and useful bill that ministers can possibly imagine, a bill for laying on our estates a tax of the fifth part of their yearly value, would be wholly without effect, if collectors could not be obtained.

I am therefore, my lords, yet doubtful, whether the inefficacy of the law now subsisting necessarily obliges us to provide another: for those that declared it to be useless, owned at the same time that no man endeavoured to enforce it; so that perhaps its only defect may be, that it will not execute itself.

Nor, though I should allow that the law is at present impeded by difficulties which cannot be broken through, but by men of more spirit and dignity than the ministers may be inclined to trust with commissions of the peace, yet it can only be collected, that another law is necessary, not that the law now proposed will be of any advantage.

Great use has been made of the inefficacy of the present law, to decry the proposal made by the noble lord, for laying a high duty upon these pernicious liquors. High duties have already, as we are informed, been tried without advantage; high duties are at this hour imposed upon those spirits which are retailed, yet we see them every day sold in the streets, without the payment of the tax required; and therefore

fore it will be folly to make a ſecond eſſay of means which have been found, by the eſſay of many years, unſucceſsful.

It has been granted on all ſides in this debate, nor was it ever denied on any other occaſion, that the conſumption of any commodity is moſt eaſily hindered by raiſing its price; and its price is to be raiſed by the impoſition of a duty. This, my lords, which is, I ſuppoſe, the opinion of every man, of whatever degree of experience or underſtanding, appears likewiſe to have been thought of by the authors of the preſent law; and therefore they imagined that they had effectually provided againſt the increaſe of drunkenneſs, by laying, upon that liquor which ſhould be retailed in ſmall quantities, a duty which none of the inferior claſſes of drunkards would be able to pay.

Thus, my lords, they conceived that they had reformed the common people, without infringing the pleaſures of others; and applauded the happy contrivance, by which ſpirits were to be made dear only to the poor, while every man who could afford to purchaſe two gallons was at liberty to riot at his eaſe, and, over a full-flowing bumper, look down with contempt upon his former companions, now ruthleſsly condemned to diſconſolate ſobriety.

But, my lords, this intention was fruſtrated, and the project, ingenious as it was, fell to the ground: for, though they had laid a tax, they unhappily forgot this tax would make no addition to the price unleſs it was paid; and that it would not be paid unleſs ſome were empowered to collect it.

Here, my lords, was the difficulty; thoſe who made the law were inclined to lay a tax from which themſelves ſhould be exempt, and therefore would not charge the liquor as it iſſued from the ſtill; and when once it was diſperſed in the hands of petty dealers, it was no longer to be found without the aſſiſtance of informers; and informers could not carry on the buſineſs of proſecution, without the conſent of the people.

It is not neceſſary to dwell any longer upon the law, the repeal of which is propoſed, ſince it appears already that it failed, only from a partiality not eaſily defended, and from the omiſſion of what is now propoſed, the collecting the duty from the ſtill-head.

If this method be followed, there will be no longer any need of informations, or of any rigorous or new meaſures; the ſame officers that collect a ſmaller duty may levy a greater; nor can they be eaſily deceived with regard to the quantities that are made; the deceits, at leaſt, that can be uſed, are in uſe already; they are frequently detected and ſuppreſſed, nor will a larger duty enable the diſtillers to elude the vigilance of the officers with more ſucceſs.

Againſt this propoſal, therefore, the inefficacy of the preſent law can be no objection. But it is urged, that ſuch duties would deſtroy the trade of diſtilling; and a noble lord has been pleaſed to expreſs great tenderneſs for a manufacture ſo beneficial and extenſive.

That a large duty, levied at the ſtill, would deſtroy, or very much impair, the trade of diſtilling, is certainly ſuppoſed by thoſe who defend it, for they

propoſed

propoſed it only for that end; and what better method can they propoſe, when they are called to deliberate upon a bill for the prevention of the exceſſive uſe of diſtilled liquors?

The noble lord has been pleaſed kindly to inform us, that the trade of diſtilling is very extenſive, that it employs great numbers, and that they have arrived at exquiſite ſkill, and therefore—note well the conſequence—the trade of diſtilling is not to be diſcouraged.

Once more, my lords, allow me to wonder at the different conceptions of different underſtandings. It appears to me, that ſince the ſpirits, which the diſtillers produce, are allowed to enfeeble the limbs, and vitiate the blood, to pervert the heart, and obſcure the intellects, that the number of diſtillers ſhould be no argument in their favour! for I never heard that a law againſt theft was repealed or delayed becauſe thieves were numerous. It appears to me, my lords, that if ſo formidable a body are confederated againſt the virtue or the lives of their fellow-citizens, it is time to put an end to the havock, and to interpoſe, while it is yet in our power to ſtop the deſtruction.

So little, my lords, am I affected with the merit of the wonderful ſkill which the diſtillers are ſaid to have attained, that it is, in my opinion, no faculty of great uſe to mankind, to prepare palatable poiſon; nor ſhall I ever contribute my intereſt for the reprieve of a murderer, becauſe he has, by long practice, obtained great dexterity in his trade.

If their liquors are so delicious, that the people are tempted to their own destruction, let us at length, my lords, secure them from these fatal draughts, by bursting the vials that contain them; let us crush at once these artists in slaughter, who have reconciled their countrymen to sickness and to ruin, and spread over the pitfals of debauchery such baits as cannot be resisted.

The noble lord has, indeed, admitted that this bill may not be found sufficiently coercive, but gives us hopes that it may be improved and enforced another year, and persuades us to endeavour a reformation of drunkenness by degrees, and, above all, to beware at present of hurting the *manufacture*.

I am very far, my lords, from thinking that there are, this year, any peculiar reasons for tolerating murder; nor can I conceive why the manufacture should be held sacred now, if it be to be destroyed hereafter. We are, indeed, desired to try how far this law will operate, that we may be more able to proceed with due regard to this valuable manufacture.

With regard to the operation of the law, it appears to me, that it will only enrich the government, without reforming the people; and I believe there are not many of a different opinion. If any diminution of the sale of spirits be expected from it, it is to be considered that this diminution will, or will not, be such as is desired for the reformation of the people. If it be sufficient, the manufacture is at an end, and all the reasons against a higher duty are of equal force against this: but if it is not sufficient, we have,

at leaſt, omitted part of our duty, and have neglected the health and virtue of the people.

I cannot, my lords, yet diſcover why a reprieve is deſired for this manufacture; why the preſent year is not equally propitious to the reformation of mankind, as any will be that may ſucceed it. It is true we are at war with two nations, and perhaps with more; but war may be better proſecuted without money than without men; and we but little conſult the military glory of our country, if we raiſe ſupplies for paying our armies, by the deſtruction of thoſe armies that we are contriving to pay.

We have heard the neceſſity of reforming the nation by degrees, urged as an argument for impoſing firſt a lighter duty, and afterwards a heavier. This complaiſance for wickedneſs, my lords, is not ſo defenſible as that it ſhould be battered by arguments in form, and therefore I ſhall only relate a reply made by Webb, the noted walker, upon a parallel occaſion.

This man, who muſt be remembered by many of your lordſhips, was remarkable for vigor, both of mind and body, and lived wholly upon water for his drink, and chiefly upon vegetables for his other ſuſtenance. He was one day recommending his regimen to one of his friends who loved wine, and who perhaps might ſomewhat contribute to the proſperity of this ſpirituous manufacture, and urged him, with great earneſtneſs, to quit a courſe of luxury, by which his health and his intellects would equally be deſtroyed. The gentleman appeared convinced, and told him, "that he would conform to his counſel,

" and thought he could not change his courſe of life " at once, but would leave off ſtrong liquors by de- " grees." " By degrees," ſays the other with indignation, " if you ſhould unhappily fall into the fire, " would you caution your ſervants not to pull you " out but by degrees?"

This anſwer, my lords, is applicable to the preſent caſe. The nation is ſunk into the loweſt ſtate of corruption; the people are not only vicious, but inſolent beyond example; they not only break the laws, but defy them, and yet ſome of your lordſhips are for reforming them by degrees.

I am not ſo eaſily perſuaded, my lords, that our miniſters really intend to ſupply the defects that may hereafter be diſcovered in this bill. It will doubtleſs produce money, perhaps much more than they appear to expect from it. I doubt not but the licenſed retailers will be more than fifty thouſand, and the quantity retailed muſt increaſe with the number of retailers. As the bill will, therefore, anſwer all the ends intended by it, I do not expect to ſee it altered; for I have never obſerved miniſters deſirous of amending their own errors, unleſs they are ſuch as have cauſed a deficiency in the revenue.

Beſides, my lords, it is not certain that, when this fund is mortgaged to the public creditors, they can prevail upon the commons to change the ſecurity. They may continue the bill in force, for the reaſons, whatever they are, for which they have paſſed it; and the good intentions of our miniſters, however ſincere, may be defeated, and drunkenneſs, legal drunkenneſs, eſtabliſhed in the nation.

This,

This, my lords, is very reaſonable; and therefore we ought to exert ourſelves for the ſafety of the nation, while the power is yet in our own hands; and, without regard to the opinion or proceedings of the other houſe, ſhew that we are yet the chief guardians of the people.

The ready compliance of the commons, with the meaſures propoſed in this bill, has been mentioned here, with a view, I ſuppoſe, of influencing us; but ſurely by thoſe who had forgotten our independence, or reſigned their own. It is not only the right, but the duty of either houſe, to deliberate, without regard to the determinations of the other: for how ſhould the nation receive any benefit from the diſtinct powers that compoſe the legiſlature, unleſs the determinations are without influence upon each other? If either the example or authority of the commons can divert us from following our own convictions, we are no longer part of the legiſlature; we have given up our honors, and our privileges; and what then is our concurrence but ſlavery, or our ſuffrage but an echo?

The only argument, therefore, that now remains, is the expediency of gratifying thoſe, by whoſe ready ſubſcription the exigencies our new ſtateſmen have brought upon us have been ſupported, and of continuing the ſecurity by which they have been encouraged to ſuch liberal contributions.

Public credit, my lords, is indeed of very great importance; but public credit can never be long ſupported without public virtue; nor indeed, if the government could mortgage the morals and health of the people, would it be juſt and rational to confirm

the bargain. If the miniſtry can raiſe money only by the deſtruction of their fellow-ſubjects, they ought to abandon thoſe ſchemes for which the money is neceſſary; for what calamity can be equal to unbounded wickedneſs?

But, my lords, there is no neceſſity for a choice which may coſt us or our miniſters ſo much regret; for the ſame ſubſcriptions may be procured by an offer of the ſame advantages to a fund of any other kind; and the ſinking fund will eaſily ſupply any deficiency that might be ſuſpected in another ſcheme.

To confeſs the truth, I ſhould feel very little pain from an account that the nation was for ſome time determined to be leſs liberal of their contributions; and that money was withheld, till it was known in what expeditions it was to be employed, to what princes ſubſidies were to be paid, and what advantages were to be purchaſed by it for our country. I ſhould rejoice, my lords, to hear that the lottery, by which the deficiencies of this duty are to be ſupplied, was not filled; and that the people were grown, at laſt, wiſe enough to diſcern the fraud, and to prefer honeſt commerce, by which all may be gainers, to a game by which the greateſt number muſt certainly be loſers.

The lotteries, my lords, which former miniſters have propoſed, have always been cenſured by thoſe that ſaw their nature and their tendency; they have been conſidered as legal cheats, by which the ignorant and the raſh are defrauded, and the ſubtle and avaricious often enriched; they have been allowed to divert the people from trade, and to alienate them from

uſeful

uſeful induſtry. A man who is uneaſy in his circumſtances, and idle in his diſpoſition, collects the remains of his fortune, and buys tickets in a lottery; retires from buſineſs, indulges himſelf in lazineſs, and waits, in ſome obſcure place, the event of his adventure. Another, inſtead of employing his ſtock in trade, rents a garret, and makes it his buſineſs, by falſe intelligence and chimerical alarms, to raiſe and ſink the price of tickets alternately, and takes advantage of the lies which he has himſelf invented.

Such, my lords, is the traffick that is produced by this ſcheme of getting money; nor were theſe inconveniencies unknown to the preſent miniſters in the time of their predeceſſors, whom they never ceaſed to purſue with the loudeſt clamors, whenever the exigencies of the government reduced them to a lottery.

If I, my lords, might preſume to recommend to our miniſters the moſt probable method of raiſing a large ſum, for the payment of the troops of the electorate, I ſhould, inſtead of the tax and lottery now propoſed, adviſe them to eſtabliſh a certain number of licenſed wheel-barrows, on which the laudable trade of thimble and button might be carried on for the ſupport of the war, and ſhoe-boys might contribute to the defence of the houſe of *Auſtria* by raffling for apples.

Having now, my lords, examined, with the utmoſt candor, all the reaſons which have been offered in defence of the bill, I cannot conceal the reſult of my inquiry. The arguments have had ſo little effect upon my underſtanding, that, as every man judges of others by himſelf, I cannot believe that they have

any

any influence, even upon thoſe that offer them; and therefore I am convinced that this bill muſt be the reſult of conſiderations which have been hitherto concealed, and is intended to promote deſigns which are never to be diſcovered by the authors before their execution.

With regard to theſe motives and deſigns, however artfully concealed, every lord in this houſe is at liberty to offer his conjectures.

When I conſider, my lords, the tendency of this bill, I find it calculated only for the propagation of diſeaſes, the ſuppreſſion of induſtry, and the deſtruction of mankind. I find it the moſt fatal engine that ever was pointed at a people; an engine by which thoſe who are not killed will be diſabled, and thoſe who preſerve their limbs will be deprived of their ſenſes.

This bill therefore appears to be deſigned only to thin the ranks of mankind, and to diſburden the world of the multitudes that inhabit it, and is perhaps the ſtrongeſt proof of political ſagacity that our new miniſters have yet exhibited. They well know, my lords, that they are univerſally deteſted, and that, whenever a Briton is deſtroyed, they are freed from an enemy; they have therefore opened the floodgates of gin upon the nation, that, when it is leſs numerous, it may be more eaſily governed.

Other miniſters, my lords, who had not attained to ſo great a knowledge in the art of making war upon their country, when they found their enemies clamorous and bold, uſed to awe them with proſecutions and penalties, or deſtroy them like burglars

with priſons and with gibbets. But every age, my lords, produces ſome improvement; and every nation, however degenerate, gives birth, at ſome happy period of time, to men of great and enterprizing genius. It is our fortune to be witneſſes of a new diſcovery in politics; we may congratulate ourſelves upon being cotemporaries with thoſe men, who have ſhewed that hangmen and halters are unneceſſary in a ſtate, and that miniſters may eſcape the reproach of deſtroying their enemies, by inciting them to deſtroy themſelves.

This new method may, indeed, have upon different conſtitutions a different operation; it may deſtroy the lives of ſome, and the ſenſes of others; but either of theſe effects will anſwer the purpoſes of the miniſtry, to whom it is indifferent, provided the nation becomes inſenſible, whether peſtilence or lunacy prevails among them. Either mad or dead the greateſt part of the people muſt quickly be, or there is no hope of the continuance of the preſent miniſtry.

For this purpoſe, my lords, what could have been invented more efficacious than an eſtabliſhment of a certain number of ſhops, at which poiſon may be vended; poiſon ſo prepared as to pleaſe the palate, while it waſtes the ſtrength, and only kills by intoxication? From the firſt inſtant that any of the enemies of the miniſtry ſhall grow clamorous and turbulent, a crafty hireling may lead him to the miniſterial ſlaughter-houſe, and ply him with their wonder-working liquor, till he is no longer able to ſpeak or think; and, my lords, no man can be more agree-

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able to our miniſters, than he that can neither ſpeak nor think, except thoſe who ſpeak without thinking.

But, my lords, the miniſters ought to reflect, that though all the people of the preſent age are their enemies, yet they have made no trial of the temper and inclinations of poſterity. Our ſucceſſors may be of opinions very different from ours; they may perhaps approve of wars on the continent, while our plantations are inſulted and our trade obſtructed; they may think the ſupport of the houſe of Auſtria of more importance to us than our own defence; and may perhaps ſo far differ from their fathers, as to imagine the treaſures of Britain very properly employed in ſupporting the troops, and increaſing the ſplendor, of a foreign electorate.

Whatever, my lords, be the true reaſon for which this bill is ſo warmly promoted, I think they ought, at leaſt, to be deliberately examined; and therefore cannot think it conſiſtent with our regard for the nation, to ſuffer it to be precipitated into a law. The year, my lords, is not ſo far advanced but that ſupplies may be raiſed by ſome other method, if this ſhould be rejected; nor do I think that we ought to conſent to this, even though our refuſal ſhould hinder the ſupplies, ſince we have no right, for the ſake of any advantage, however certain or great, to violate all the laws of heaven and earth, and to fill the exchequer with the price of the lives of our fellow-ſubjects.

Let us therefore, my lords, not ſuffer ourſelves to be driven forward with ſuch haſte, as may hinder us from obſerving whither we are going. Let us not

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be perſuaded to precipitate our counſels, by thoſe who know that all delays are detrimental to their deſigns, becauſe delays may produce new information; and they are conſcious that the bill will be the leſs approved, the more it is underſtood.

But every reaſon which they can offer againſt the motion is, in my opinion, a reaſon for it; and therefore I ſhall readily agree to poſtpone the clauſe, and no leſs readily to reject the bill.

If, at laſt, reaſon and evidence are vain, if neither juſtice nor compaſſion can prevail, but the nation muſt be deſtroyed for the ſupport of the government; let us at leaſt, my lords, confine our aſſertions, in the preamble, to truth. Let us not affirm that drunkenneſs is eſtabliſhed by the advice or conſent of the lords ſpiritual, ſince I am confident not one of them will ſo far contradict his own doctrine, as to vote for a bill which gives a ſanction to one vice, and miniſters opportunities and temptations to all others, and which, if it be not ſpeedily repealed, will overflow the whole nation with a deluge of wickedneſs.

XLIX.

His excellency the earl of CHESTERFIELD's letter to their high mightineſſes, the ſtates general of the united provinces, on taking leave, Feb. 26, N. S. 1732.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

THE king, my maſter, who recalls me to attend the duties of my poſt about his royal perſon, has commanded me to repeat to you, on this occaſion, the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of his inviolable friendſhip for this illuſtrious republic.

It was by theſe aſſurances that I opened my commiſſion to your high mightineſſes: I am happy to cloſe it in the ſame manner; and I rejoice in the reflection that, throughout its whole duration, which has not been a ſhort one, every thing has viſibly concurred to evince the ſentiments of a monarch, who is incapable of expreſſing any but ſuch as are real.

His majeſty is truly ſenſible of the advantages that accrue to both nations from the alliance by which they are ſo ſtrictly connected. Ever attentive to the welfare of his ſubjects, and to that of his allies, he is determined to maintain, and, if poſſible, more cloſely to cement, an union formed by the common intereſt of the people, the balance of Europe, and the intereſt of the proteſtant religion, and which a happy preſcription ſeems to make unalterable for the future. Such is the ſyſtem which has never been departed from, but when the true intereſts of either the one or the other have been miſtaken or ſacrificed.

The

XLIX.

Lettre de ſon excellence mylord CHESTERFIELD aux états généraux des provinces-unies, pour prendre congé, le 26 Février, N. S. 1732.

HAUTS ET PUISSANS SEIGNEURS,

LE roi, mon maître, qui me rappelle pour remplir les fonctions de ma charge auprès de ſa perſonne, m'a ordonné de vous réitérer en cette occaſion les plus fortes aſſurances de ſon inviolable amitié pour cette illuſtre république.

C'eſt par-là que je commençai ma commiſſion auprès de vos hautes puiſſances; il m'eſt doux de la terminer de même, et je me félicite de ce que, pendant un aſſez long-tems qu'elle a duré, tout a viſiblement concouru à vérifier les ſentimens d'un monarque incapable d'en témoigner qui ne ſoient réels.

Le roi ſent vivement les avantages que les deux nations retirent de l'alliance qui les unit ſi étroitement. Toujours attentif au bonheur de ſes ſujets, et à celui de ſes alliés, il eſt réſolu d'entretenir, et s'il eſt poſſible, de ſerrer de plus en plus les nœuds d'une union que le bien commun des peuples, l'équilibre de l'Europe, l'intérêt de la religion proteſtante ont formée, et qu'une heureuſe preſcription ſemble rendre deſormais inaltérable. Tel eſt le ſyſtême dont on ne s'eſt jamais éloigné, que quand les véritables intérêts de l'une ou de l'autre nation ont été ignorés ou ſacrifiés.

Les

The light in which I repreſent to your high mightineſſes the diſpoſition of the king my maſter, is the ſame in which I ſhall give his majeſty an account of yours. The re-eſtabliſhment of the tranquillity of Europe is a ſtriking and recent proof of the good effects ariſing from this mutual confidence. Providence, which had united our intereſts, ſeems likewiſe to have united our counſels. Harmony, the object of my moſt ardent wiſhes, has invariably ſubſiſted as a thing of courſe. It has ſuperſeded my endeavours, and has left me, if I may ſo ſay, but the pleaſing regret of having been rather a ſpectator than a promoter of it.

If it were not cuſtomary, on theſe occaſions, to laviſh thoſe terms which are moſt expreſſive of the feelings of the heart, and which too often mean no more than mere ceremony, I ſhould make uſe of the moſt emphatical language, high and mighty lords, to expreſs my gratitude for the reception you have honored me with, during the execution of my commiſſion; nor ſhould I be afraid of ſaying too much.

But let my wiſhes be accepted in lieu of a ſpeech.

May the great diſpoſer of all events grant that your high mightineſſes may long and abundantly enjoy the proſperity, procured to your country by the wiſdom of your counſels! may he ſuſpend the courſe of human infirmities, and protract the period of life, in favour of thoſe whoſe experience, abilities, and labours, may contribute to the ſafety and glory of this republic! and may each moment of its exiſtence be

ſignalized

Les traits que j'employe pour repréſenter à vos hautes puiſſances les diſpoſitions du roi mon maître, ſont les mêmes dont je me ſervirai pour lui rendre compte des vôtres. Le rétabliſſement de la tranquillité de l'Europe eſt une preuve ſenſible et récente des bons effets qu'a produit cette confiance mutuelle. La providence, qui avoit uni nos intérêts, ſembloit auſſi avoir uni nos conſeils. L'harmonie, l'objet de mes deſirs les plus ardens, s'eſt entretenue comme d'elle-même. Elle a prévenu mes ſoins, et ne m'a laiſſé, ſi je puis parler ainſi, que le doux regret de n'y avoir contribué en rien, et de n'en avoir été que le ſpectateur.

Si dans des circonſtances pareilles à celles où je me trouve aujourd'hui, on n'eût pas prodigué tous les termes les plus capables d'exprimer les mouvemens du cœur, pendant qu'on ne fait ſouvent que s'acquitter d'un ſimple devoir de cérémonie, j'employerois, hauts et puiſſans ſeigneurs, ſans craindre d'en dire trop, les expreſſions les plus énergiques, pour vous marquer la vive reconnoiſſance, que m'inſpire l'accueil que vous m'avez témoigné durant le cours de ma commiſſion.

Mes vœux me tiendront lieu de diſcours.

Faſſe le grand arbitre des événemens, que vos hautes puiſſances participent longtems et abondamment à la proſpérité, que la ſageſſe de vos conſeils procure à votre patrie! Daigne-t il ſuſpendre le cours des infirmités humaines, et étendre les bornes de la vie, en faveur de ceux dont l'expérience, les talens et les travaux peuvent contribuer à la ſûreté et à la gloire de cette république! et daigne-t-il marquer

ſignalized by ſome ſucceſs, worthy of thoſe virtues and that courage, which firſt laid the foundation of it, and have ſupported it in ſo high a degree of ſplendor to this day!

(Signed,)

CHESTERFIELD.

L.

The earl of CHESTERFIELD'S ſpeech to the ſtates general, on his taking leave of their high mightineſſes at the Hague, May 18, N. S. 1745.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

THE king my maſter, on permitting me to return to England, has given me expreſs orders to renew to your high mightineſſes the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of his eſteem and friendſhip.

It is happy for me that ſo honorable a commiſſion lays on me ſo eaſy a duty.

As a faithful interpreter of the ſentiments of a ſincere friendſhip, I am far from borrowing the flattering expreſſions which a feigned friendſhip ſtands in need of.

Let crafty policy employ the moſt ſeducing artifices to cover its ambitious deſigns; let it put every ſpring in motion to gain your confidence, or at leaſt to lull you into a fatal ſecurity. True friendſhip, ſuch as that which unites the king my maſter with your high mightineſſes, deſpiſes thoſe artifices, and abhors

chaque moment de sa durée par quelque succès digne des vertus et du courage, qui en ont jetté les fondemens, et qui l'ont fait subsister avec tant d'éclat jusqu'à ce jour!

(*Etoit signé,*)

CHESTERFIELD.

L.

Discours de son excellence, le comte de CHESTERFIELD, aux états généraux, en prenant congé de leurs hautes puissances: à la Haye, le 18 Mai, N. S. 1745.

HAUTS ET PUISSANS SEIGNEURS,

LE roi mon maître, en me permettant de retourner en Angleterre, m'a expressément ordonné de renouveller à vos hautes puissances les assurances les plus fortes de son estime et de son amitié.

Il est heureux pour moi qu'une commission si honorable m'impose un devoir si facile.

Interprète des sentimens d'une amitié sincère, je n'ai garde d'emprunter les expressions flatteuses, dont une amitié simulée a besoin de se parer.

Qu'une politique rusée employe, pour couvrir ses desseins ambitieux, tout ce que l'art a de plus séduisant. Qu'elle mette tout en œuvre pour surprendre votre confiance, ou du moins pour vous endormir dans une funeste sécurité; la vraie amitié, telle que celle qui unit le roi mon maître avec vos hautes puissances, méprise ces artifices, et déteste ces

abhors those indirect means. It is simple, and its language is the same.

The close union of the two nations is neither the effect of some transient views, nor the fruit of accidental conjunctures, but the just consequence of our reciprocal and invariable interests. Nature pointed it out to us, in placing us as she has done; and the uninterrupted experience of almost a century must convince us that our mutual prosperity depends on our union. This truth is so indisputable, that all those who presume to call it in question may justly be considered as our common enemies.

Vicinity is to most nations but a fatal source of jealousy and discord; whereas we have the singular happiness of being neighbours in a manner fit to procure us infinite advantages, without a possibility of any distrust or umbrage arising therefrom, if we do not forget our grand interests.

Such are the king's notions; and, from my own observation, I will take upon me to assure his majesty that your high mightinesses are in the same way of thinking. Who can be ignorant of it? Our allies know it, our enemies feel it. Europe has already often reaped the precious fruits of our harmony. What may she not further expect from it?

The love of liberty, which first laid the foundation of this republic, and has since so often signalized her, this so noble and generous love still unites your strength and your councils to those of the king my master. Actuated by the same spirit, and pursuing the same end, the sole object of your endeavours is to restore and secure public liberty and tranquillity.

What

détours. Elle eſt ſimple, et ſon langage lui reſſemble.

L'étroite union des deux nations n'eſt ni l'effet de quelques vues paſſagères, ni le fruit de quelque ſituation accidentelle; mais une ſuite réfléchie de nos intérêts réciproques et invariables. La nature nous l'a marquée, en nous plaçant comme elle a fait, et une expérience non interrompue de près d'un ſiècle, ne nous permet pas d'ignorer que notre proſpérité mutuelle dépend de notre union. Cette vérité eſt ſi inconteſtable, que nous devons regarder comme nos ennemis communs tous ceux qui prétendent la révoquer en doute.

Le voiſinage n'eſt pour la plûpart des peuples qu'une ſource funeſte de jalouſie ou de diſcorde; au lieu que nous avons le bonheur ſingulier d'être voiſins, d'une manière propre à nous procurer des avantages infinis, ſans qu'il en puiſſe naître ni défiance ni ombrage, ſi nous n'oublions pas nos grands intérêts.

Telles ſont les idées du roi, et ſur ce que j'ai vu de près, j'oſerai l'aſſurer que vos hautes puiſſances penſent de même. Qui peut l'ignorer? Nos alliés le ſavent; nos ennemis le ſentent. L'Europe a déja ſouvent recueilli des fruits précieux de notre harmonie. Que n'en doit-elle pas eſpérer encore?

L'amour de la liberté, qui fonda cette république, et qui l'a déja ſi ſouvent ſignalée depuis; cet amour ſi noble et ſi généreux, unit encore aujourd'hui vos forces et vos conſeils à ceux du roi mon maître. Animés d'un même eſprit, et tendant au même but, vos efforts n'ont pour objet que de rétablir et d'aſſurer la liberté et la tranquillité publique. Quel

What deſign can be more laudable? What work more worthy of a juſt and magnanimous zeal?

Purſue, high and mighty lords, that deſign, with your wonted ſteadineſs and wiſdom; continue thoſe efforts, without ſuffering yourſelves to be diſmayed; and may heaven crown your undertakings with the ſucceſs they deſerve!

As for what relates to myſelf, high and mighty lords, nothing could be more pleaſing to me than to be charged a ſecond time with the king's orders at this court, eſpecially on an occaſion where the buſineſs was to concert meaſures for fulfilling thoſe very engagements which I contributed to form ſome years ago.

I ſhall never forget the kind reception I met with, both times, from your high mightineſſes; and my gratitude will end but with my days. But if your high mightineſſes will condeſcend to remember me; view me, high and mighty lords, only on the ſide of my ſincere zeal for the common welfare of both nations, my reſpectful veneration for your government, and, if I may preſume to uſe the expreſſion, my tender attachment to this republic.

CHESTERFIELD.

deſſein plus louable? Quel ouvrage plus digne d'un zèle juſte et magnanime?

Pourſuivez, hauts et puiſſans ſeigneurs, ce deſſein, avec votre fermeté et votre ſageſſe ordinaire! continuez ces efforts, ſans vous laiſſer décourager; et veuille le ciel couronner vos entrepriſes du ſuccès qu'elles méritent!

Pour ce qui me regarde, hauts et puiſſans ſeigneurs, rien ne pouvoit m'arriver de plus flatteur que d'être chargé, pour la ſeconde fois, des ordres du roi auprès de vos hautes puiſſances, ſur-tout dans une occaſion où il s'agiſſoit de concerter les moyens de ſatisfaire aux engagemens que je contribuai à former il y a quelques années.

Je n'oublierai jamais le gracieux accueil dont vos hautes puiſſances m'ont honoré alors et à-préſent; et ma reconnoiſſance ne finira qu'avec mes jours. Mais ſi vos hautes puiſſances daignent ſe ſouvenir de moi, ne m'enviſagez, hauts et puiſſans ſeigneurs, que du côté de mon zéle ſincère pour le bien commun des deux nations; de ma vénération reſpectueuſe pour votre gouvernement, et, ſi j'oſe me ſervir de cette expreſſion, de mon tendre attachement pour cette république.

CHESTERFIELD.

LI.

The ſpeech of his excellency, PHILIP earl of CHESTERFIELD, lord lieutenant-general and general-governor of Ireland, to both houſes of parliament, at Dublin, on Tueſday the 8th day of October, 1745.

MY LORDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM honored with the king's commands to meet you here in parliament, and to co-operate with you in whatever may tend to eſtabliſh, or promote, the true intereſt of this kingdom. His majeſty's tender concern for all his ſubjects, and your zeal and duty for him, have mutually been too long experienced for me now to repreſent the one, or recommend the other.

Your own reflections will beſt ſuggeſt to you the advantages you have enjoyed under a ſucceſſion of proteſtant princes, by nature inclined, and by legal authority enabled, to preſerve and protect you; as your own hiſtory, and even the experience of ſome ſtill alive among you, will beſt paint the miſeries and calamities of a people ſcourged, rather than governed, by blind zeal, and lawleſs power.

Theſe conſiderations muſt neceſſarily excite your higheſt indignation at the attempt now carrying on in Scotland, to diſturb his majeſty's government, by a pretender to his crown: one nurſed up in civil and religious error; formed to perſecution and oppreſſion, in the ſeat of ſuperſtition and tyranny; whoſe groundleſs

groundleſs claim is as contrary to the natural rights of mankind, as to the particular laws and conſtitutions of theſe kingdoms; whoſe only hopes of ſupport are placed in the enemies of the liberties of Europe in general; and whoſe ſucceſs would conſequently deſtroy your liberty, your property, and your religion.

But this ſucceſs is little to be feared, his majeſty's ſubjects giving daily and diſtinguiſhed proofs of their zeal for the ſupport of his government, and the defence of his perſon; and a conſiderable number of national troops, together with ſix thouſand Dutch chearfully furniſhed to his majeſty by his good allies the ſtates general, being now upon their march to Scotland, a force more than ſufficient to check the progreſs, and chaſtiſe the inſolence, of a rebellious and undiſciplined multitude.

The meaſures that have hitherto been taken, to prevent the growth of popery, have, I hope, had ſome, and will ſtill have a greater, effect; however, I leave it to your conſideration, whether nothing farther can be done, either by new laws, or by the more effectual execution of thoſe in being, to ſecure this nation againſt the great number of papiſts, whoſe ſpeculative errors would only deſerve pity, if their pernicious influence upon civil ſociety did not both require and authorize reſtraint.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I have ordered the proper officers to lay before you the ſeveral accounts and eſtimates; and I have the pleaſure to acquaint you, that I have nothing to

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aſk but the uſual and neceſſary ſupplies for the ſupport of the eſtabliſhment.

The king, having thought it neceſſary, at this time, to ſend for two battalions more from hence, has ordered that, immediately upon their landing in England, they ſhould be put upon the Britiſh eſtabliſhment: and that the ſupplemental increaſe of regular forces, for your defence here, ſhall be made in the leaſt expenſive manner, by additional companies only; after which augmentation, the number of troops will ſtill be within the uſual military eſtabliſhment.

MY LORDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with the greateſt ſatisfaction that I hear of the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of the linen manufacture; and I moſt earneſtly recommend to you the care and improvement of ſo valuable a branch of your trade. Let not its proſperity produce negligence; and let it never be ſuppoſed to be brought to its utmoſt extent and perfection. Trade has always been the ſupport of all nations, and the principal care of the wiſeſt.

I perſuade myſelf that the buſineſs of this ſeſſion will be carried on with that temper and unanimity, which a true and unbiaſſed regard for the public naturally produces, and which the preſent ſtate of affairs more particularly demands. For my own part, I make no profeſſions; you will, you ought to judge of me only by my actions.

LII.

His excellency the earl of CHESTERFIELD's ſpeech to both houſes of parliament at Dublin, on Friday April 11, 1746.

MY LORDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

THE buſineſs of the ſeſſion being now concluded, I believe you cannot be unwilling to return to your reſpective counties, as you muſt be ſenſible that the many good laws which you have paſſed will receive additional weight by your authority in executing, and by your example in obſerving, them.

The almoſt unprecedented temper and unanimity with which you have carried on the public buſineſs, your unſhaken fidelity to the king, your inviolable attachment to the preſent happy conſtitution, and your juſt indignation at the attempts lately made to ſubvert it, will advantageouſly diſtinguiſh this ſeſſion in the journals of parliament; and the concurrent zeal and active loyalty of all his majeſty's proteſtant ſubjects, of all denominations, throughout this kingdom, prove at once how ſenſible and how deſerving they are of his care and protection. Even thoſe deluded people, who ſcarcely acknowledge his government, ſeem, by their conduct, tacitly to have confeſſed the advantages they enjoy under it. At my return to his majeſty's preſence, I ſhall not fail moſt faithfully to report theſe truths, ſince the moſt faithful

ful will be, at the ſame time, the moſt favourable repreſentation.

The rebellion, which rather diſturbed than endangered the king's government, has been defeated, though not yet totally ſuppreſſed; but as thoſe flagitious parricides who were abandoned enough to avow, and deſperate enough to engage in, the cauſe of popery and tyranny, have already been repulſed and purſued, by the valour and activity of his royal highneſs the duke, there is the ſtrongeſt reaſon to believe that he will ſoon complete the work which he has ſo glorioufly begun, and reſtore the tranquillity of the kingdom. This attempt, therefore, to ſhake his majeſty's throne, will ſerve to eſtabliſh it the more firmly, ſince all Europe muſt know the unanimous zeal and affection of his ſubjects for the defence and ſupport of his perſon and government; and thoſe hopes are at laſt extinguiſhed, with which the pretender has ſo long flattered, and, as it now appears, deceived himſelf. Even the manner in which he has been aſſiſted by thoſe powers who encouraged him to the attempt, muſt convince him that he has now been, what he ever will be, only the occaſional tool of their politics, not the real object of their care.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I have the king's commands to thank you, in his name, for the unanimity and diſpatch with which you have granted the neceſſary ſupplies for the ſupport of the eſtabliſhment; you may depend upon their being applied with the utmoſt exactneſs and frugality.

I muſt

I must not omit my own acknowledgments for the particular confidence you have placed in me, by leaving to my care and management the great sum that you voluntarily voted for national arms, and for the fortifying the harbour of Corke. The considerable saving which will appear upon those, as well in the interest upon the loan, as in the application of the principal, will, I hope, prove that I have been truly sensible of the trust reposed in me.

The assistance which you have given to the protestant charter schools, is a most prudent, as well as a most compassionate, charity; and I do very earnestly recommend to your constant protection and encouragement that excellent institution, by which such a considerable number of unhappy children are annually rescued from the misery that always, and the guilt that commonly accompanies, uninstructed poverty and idleness.

MY LORDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

Though Great Britain has, in the course of this century, been often molested by insurrections at home, and invasions from abroad, this kingdom has happily, and deservedly, enjoyed that uninterrupted tranquillity, which trade and manufactures, arts and sciences, require for their improvement and perfection. Nature too has been peculiarly favourable to this country, whose temperate climate and fruitful soil do invite, and would reward, care and industry. Let me, therefore, most seriously recommend to you, in your private as well as in your public capacities, the utmost attention to those important objects, which

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at once enrich, ſtrengthen, and adorn, a nation. They will flouriſh wherever they are cultivated; and they are always beſt cultivated by the indulgence, the encouragement, and above all by the example, of perſons of ſuperior rank.

I cannot conclude, without repeating my heartieſt thanks to you for your kind addreſſes, in which you expreſs your approbation of my conduct. My duty to the king, who wiſhes the intereſt and happineſs of all his ſubjects, called for my utmoſt endeavours to promote yours; and my inclinations conſpired with my duty. Theſe ſentiments ſhall, I aſſure you, be the only motives of all my actions, of which your intereſt muſt conſequently be the only object.

LIII.

LIII.

A short character of the president de MONTESQUIEU, by lord CHESTERFIELD *.

ON the tenth of this month (February 1755), died at Paris, universally and sincerely regretted, Charles Secondat, baron de Montesquieu, and *president à mortier* of the parliament at Bourdeaux. His virtues did honor to human nature; his writings, justice. A friend to mankind, he asserted their undoubted and inalienable rights with freedom, even in his own country, whose prejudices in matters of religion and government he had long lamented, and endeavoured, not without some success, to remove. He well knew, and justly admired, the happy constitution of this country, where fixed and known laws equally restrain monarchy from tyranny, and liberty from licentiousness. His works will illustrate his name, and survive him as long as right reason, moral obligation, and the true spirit of laws, shall be understood, respected, and maintained †.

* This was sent from Bath by lord Chesterfield, on hearing of the death of his friend. It was inserted in the London Evening-Post, but without the name of the author. See *Memoirs*, Sect. VI.

† On the death of the celebrated Mr. de Fontenelle next year, lord Chesterfield likewise sent from Bath the following short account, to be inserted in the same paper. The two nations were then at war with each other. "Letters by this day's Flanders mail bring advice, that, on the 9th instant, died at Paris, aged 99 years, 11 months, and 12 days, Mr. Bernard le Bowier de Fontenelle, dean [*doyen* in French means the oldest member] of the French academy, and of the royal academies of *belles-lettres* and of sciences, a member of the royal society of London, and of the royal academy at Berlin. The high reputation he has justly acquired by his writings renders any encomium superfluous."

LIV.

LIV.

A letter from the earl of CHESTERFIELD to Mr. de BOUGAINVILLE *, read in the academy of inscriptions and belles-lettres, on Tuesday, June 17, 1755.

SIR,

I WAS both astonished and flattered when your brother told me I might, if I chose it, be admitted into the most respectable and most respected society in Europe. Dazzled at first sight with so flattering an object, and led away by the delusions of self-love, I gave myself up to the pleasing idea. I already aspired after the honor, without once considering whether I was qualified for it. Reflection followed; and modesty restrained me. I carefully examined myself, in hopes of finding some specious claims, or at least some pretence, that might in some measure justify your good opinion of me; but alas! Sir, that inquiry has been very mortifying to me. I found that my younger years had been wasted in dissipation and pleasure, which scarce allowed me time so much as to think of the sciences; and that, my riper years having been wholly devoted to business, I had never been at leisure to cultivate them. The study of the sciences would require the whole, and more than the whole, of a man's life; would it then be consistent with decency to enter upon it at threescore? especially at this distance, where I can have no opportunity of

* Secretary to the academy, and brother to the gentleman who has made himself so conspicuous by several navigations, and especially his voyage about the world.

improving

LIV.

Lettre de mylord C: STERFIELD à Mr. de BOUGAINVILLE *, lue à l'académie des inſcriptions et belles-lettres, le mardi 17 Juin, 1755.

MONSIEUR,

JE fus également étonné et flatté quand monſieur votre frère me dit de votre part qu'il ne tiendroit qu'à moi d'être aggrégé au corps le plus reſpectable et le plus reſpecté de l'Europe. Ebloui d'abord par l'éclat d'un objet ſi flatteur, et ſéduit par les illuſions de l'amour-propre, je me livrai à une ſi douce idée : j'aſpirois déjà à cet honneur, ſans ſonger ſeulement ſi j'en étois digne. Mais la réflexion ſuivit, et la pudeur me retint. Je m'examinai ſoigneuſement, dans l'eſpérance de trouver quelques droits un peu ſpécieux, ou du moins quelques prétentions, qui puſſent en quelque façon juſtifier votre prévention en ma faveur ; mais hélas ! monſieur, cette recherche m'a été bien humiliante ; j'ai trouvé que ma jeuneſſe, prodiguée dans la diſſipation et les plaiſirs, m'avoit à peine permis de penſer ſeulement aux ſciences, et que mon âge plus avancé, occupé entiérement par les affaires, ne m'avoit pas accordé le loiſir de les cultiver. Les ſciences demandent non-ſeulement toute la vie, mais encore bien plus que toute la vie de l'homme. La bienſéance ſouffrira-t-elle donc qu'un ſexagenaire ſe préſente pour y commencer ſon noviciat ? ſur-tout privé comme il l'eſt par l'éloignement des occaſions de

improving by the instructions and example of the learned members of that illustrious body. So circumstanced, I am at a loss what to do. I think I ought not to sollicit an honor for which I am so unqualified; and yet, I must confess, I cannot help ardently wishing for it. I leave it entirely to you. The interests of the society must be dear to you, who have been so eminently distinguished by it. I am not to suppose you would betray them, in return for the regard and esteem with which I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed,)

CHESTERFIELD.

LV.

A letter of thanks from the earl of CHESTERFIELD, on his being admitted a free foreign member of the academy; read at the meeting, on Friday, August 8, 1755.

GENTLEMEN,

THE mind is naturally prepared for honors or mortifications, from a consciousness of its own deserts; but when a man is undeservedly or unexpectedly raised to the one, or exposed to the other, the effect is a confused sensation, not to be expressed, which at once stuns the soul, and takes away all power of utterance, whether of gratitude or complaint.

This sensation, gentlemen, is what I now experience. The honor of being associated to one of the most illustrious

profiter des instructions, et de se former sur les modèles des illustres membres d'un si illustre corps. Que dois-je donc faire dans ces circonstances ? Il ne me paroît pas permis de postuler un honneur que je mérite si peu, mais en même tems j'avoue qu'il m'est impossible de ne le pas ardemment desirer. Je m'en remets à vous entiérement; les intérêts de l'académie doivent vous être chers; elle a reconnu et distingué votre mérite; je ne dois pas supposer que vous vouliez les trahir en considération du zèle et de l'estime avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(Signé,)

CHESTERFIELD.

LV.

Lettre de remerciment de mylord CHESTERFIELD, reçu au nombre des académiciens libres étrangers, lue dans la séance du vendredi 8 Août 1755.

MESSIEURS,

ON se trouve naturellement préparé aux honneurs et aux disgraces, lorsqu'on sent qu'on en est digne; mais lorsque, sans les mériter, ou sans avoir pû les attendre, on se voit élevé aux uns, ou exposé aux autres, leur effet est un sentiment confus qui ne peut s'exprimer; il étourdit l'ame, et étouffe également la voix de la reconnoissance ou de la plainte.

Ce sentiment, messieurs, vous me le faites éprouver. L'association que m'accorde une des plus illustres

luſtrious academies in Europe, amazes and confounds me. I am equally at a loſs to account for the motives of your choice, and to find expreſſions adequate to my gratitude.

In vain have I recourſe to the deceits of ſelf-love. They can never make me forget the degree of merit which might juſtify your preference, nor prevent my fears that this may be thought to be the firſt error you have ever been guilty of. To what principle is it reducible, that you ſhould confer ſuch an honor on a foreigner, who is ſeparated from you, not only by the ſea, but ſtill more ſo by the want of thoſe talents that ſo eminently diſtinguiſh you? Is it owing to the natural politeneſs of your nation, which manifeſts itſelf to, or rather diffuſes itſelf over, all others? No, gentlemen; diſtance of place has been favourable to me. Fame, that meſſenger, who never keeps within the bounds of ſtrict truth, who magnifies every object, and ſeems to gather ſtrength in proportion to the ſpace ſhe meaſures, has doubtleſs transformed my love of literature into actual knowledge, and your propenſity to indulgence has inclined you to believe her.

Our taſte is formed in the early years of our life. I owed mine to the tincture I then received of thoſe pleaſing attainments, which adorn every ſtation, and embelliſh every period of life. From my heart I both loved and honored them, but it was my misfortune to want opportunities for making a ſufficient progreſs in them. Too much addicted to pleaſure in my younger years, and hurried away, in riper age, by the torrent of public affairs, that time has glided away too ſwiftly, which would have been better employed

académies de l'Europe, m'étonne et me confond. Quels furent les motifs de votre choix? Je les cherche, et les trouve auſſi peu que des expreſſions proportionnées à ma reconnoiſſance.

L'amour-propre me prête-t-il ſes illuſions? Elles ne ſauroient me faire oublier le degré de mérite qui pourroit juſtifier votre préférence, ni m'empêcher de craindre que ce choix ne paroiſſe votre premiere erreur. A quel principe un étranger que la mer, moins encore que les talens qui vous diſtinguent, a ſéparé de vous, pourroit-il devoir un tel honneur? Seroit-ce à cette politeſſe ſi naturelle à votre nation, qui ſe manifeſte, ou plûtôt qui ſe répand ſur toutes les autres? Non, meſſieurs, l'éloignement m'a été favorable. La renommée, cette meſſagère qui toujours manque d'exactitude, et ſouvent de fidélité, qui groſſit également tous les objets, et qui ſemble acquérir des forces à proportion du chemin qu'elle parcourt, aura transformé en connoiſſance, mon amour pour les belles-lettres, et diſpoſés comme vous l'êtes à l'indulgence, ſans doute vous l'en avez trop crue.

Les premières années de la vie décident de nos goûts. J'ai dû les miens à la teinture que je reçus alors de ces connoiſſances aimables qui relèvent tous les états, et qui embelliſſent tous les âges. Mon cœur les chérit et les reſpecta, mais j'eus le malheur de ne pouvoir ſuffiſamment les cultiver. Trop diſſipé dans ma jeuneſſe, entrainé, dans l'âge mûr, par le torrent des affaires publiques, j'ai vu s'écouler, avec trop de rapidité, un tems que les lettres auroient mieux rempli.

ployed in literary improvements. All I could do was to be a well-wisher to them, and I have been a warm one. Why am I compelled to confess that the altars I have raised to literature were, in some measure, like that of Athens, dedicated *to the unknown God!*

Restored to myself, though late, I seek in these studies a resource for old age, and a rational amusement for retirement. These I find in your memoirs, which afford me both instruction and pleasure. There the genius and the works of antiquity are rescued from oblivion, explained, and brought within my reach, and, I will venture to add, emulated by your own.

The brightest days of literary societies are preceded by a faint dawn; but your infancy was that of a body that feels what it is one day to be. It was the infancy of Hercules. At a time when the academy seemed wholly intent upon conferring immortality on the great monarch who had given it being, she was extending her views, and preparing her labors. She took a retrospective survey of past ages, and stood forth to future ages as a repository for great actions, and a model of taste. So successful was this institution in promoting genius and talents, that, in a very few years, it was more difficult to limit the number of places than to fill them properly.

But now that my name is to appear in your list, have we not room to be apprehensive of an unfavourable revolution? and, by admitting me into your society, do you not authorize the complaints that are made concerning the degeneracy of the times? These complaints, gentlemen, are the common-place of pride,

Mon zèle fut tout ce que je pus leur donner, et ce zèle fut vif. Pourquoi me vois-je obligé de reconnoître que les autels qu'il lui éleva furent, peut-être, à l'exemple de celui d'Athènes, consacré *à la divinité inconnue ?*

Revenu, quoique trop tard, à moi-même, je cherche dans les lettres des ressources pour l'âge, des agrémens pour la retraite. Vos mémoires me les fourniſſent; j'y puiſe des inſtructions et des plaiſirs; j'y trouve le génie et les ouvrages de la belle antiquité arrachés de l'oubli, développés, mis à ma portée, et je ne crains point d'ajouter, égalés par les vôtres.

Les jours les plus brillans des ſociétés littéraries ſont ordinairement dévancés par une foible aurore; mais votre enfance fut celle d'un corps qui ſent ce qu'il doit être un jour. C'étoit l'enfance d'Hercule. Dans le tems que l'académie ſembloit ne s'occuper que du ſoin de donner l'immortalité au grand monarque qui lui donnoit l'exiſtence, elle étendoit toujours ſes vues, et préparoit ſes travaux. Elle jettoit ſes regards ſur les ſiècles paſſés, et s'annonçoit aux ſiècles futurs, comme chargée du dépôt des grandes actions, et des modèles du goût. Une heureuſe fécondité multiplia en ſi peu d'années les génies et les talens, que bientôt il devint plus difficile de limiter le nombre des places que de les bien remplir.

Mais à préſent que mon nom va paroître ſur votre liſte, n'y a-t-il pas lieu de craindre une révolution peu avantageuſe; et n'autoriſez-vous pas, en me faiſant entrer dans votre corps, les plaintes qu'on fait que notre ſiècle dégénere ? Ces plaintes, meſſieurs, ſont le

pride, envy, and ill-nature; the human heart indulges them with a ſecret complacency. It is eaſier to forgive a paſt and remote ſuperiority, than to endure cotemporary, and, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, contiguous merit. Your choice may be blamed, but will never be imputed to neceſſity. Such a ſuſpicion would be contradicted by too many eminent men, formed upon your model in your own country. It will only be ſaid that, as you can receive no additional luſtre, you have condeſcended to reflect ſome part of yours upon me.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed,)

CHESTERFIELD.

London, July 31, 1755.

LVI.

lieu commun de l'orgueil, de l'envie, et de la malignité ; le cœur humain s'y livre avec complaisance ; il est plus facile pour lui de pardonner une supériorité passée, et perdue dans l'éloignement, que de souffrir un mérite contemporain, et si j'ose hasarder ce mot, contigu. On pourra blâmer votre choix, mais on ne l'attribuera jamais à la nécessité. Trop de savans illustres, formés à votre modèle dans votre propre patrie, démentiroient un tel soupçon. On dira simplement que, ne pouvant recevoir un nouveau lustre, vous avez daigné me communiquer une partie du vôtre.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(*Signé*,)

CHESTERFIELD.

A Londres, ce 31 Juillet, 1755.

LVI.

LVI.

Preface to Love Elegies, by WILLIAM HAMMOND Eſquire, publiſhed in 1742 *.

THE following elegies were wrote by a young gentleman lately dead, and juſtly lamented.

As he had never declared his intentions concerning their publication, a friend of his, into whoſe hands they fell, determined to publiſh them, in the perſuaſion that they would neither be unwelcome to the public, nor injurious to the memory of their author. The reader muſt decide, whether this determination was the reſult of juſt judgment or partial friendſhip; for the editor feels, and avows ſo much of the latter, that he gives up all pretenſions to the former.

The author compoſed them ten years ago, before he was two-and-twenty years old; an age, when fancy and imagination commonly riot, at the expence of judgment and correctneſs, neither of which ſeem wanting here. But, ſincere in his love as in his friendſhip, he wrote to his miſtreſſes, as he ſpoke to his friends, nothing but the true genuine ſentiments of his heart; he ſate down to write what he thought, not to think what he ſhould write; it was nature and ſentiment only that dictated to a real miſtreſs, not

* See Memoirs of lord Cheſterfield under that year. This preface, which fell from his pen, is a noble monument of his feelings, his taſte, and the love which he bore to his country; a ſentiment as diſtant from modern patriotiſm, as thoſe that uſurp that qualification are from the noble author.

youthful

youthful and poetic fancy, to an imaginary one. Elegy therefore ſpeaks here her own, proper, native language, the unaffected plaintive language of the tender paſſions; the true elegiac dignity and ſimplicity are preſerved, and united; the one without pride, the other without meanneſs. Tibullus ſeems to have been the model our author judiciouſly preferred to Ovid; the former writing directly from the heart, to the heart; the latter too often yielding and addreſſing himſelf to the imagination.

The undiſſipated youth of the author allowed him time to apply himſelf to the beſt maſters, the antients, and his parts enabled him to make the beſt uſe of them; for, upon thoſe great models of ſolid ſenſe and virtue, he formed not only his genius, but his heart, both well prepared by nature to adopt, and adorn the reſemblance. He admired that juſtneſs, that noble ſimplicity of thought, and expreſſion, which have diſtinguiſhed and preſerved their writings to this day; but he revered that love of their country, that contempt of riches, that ſacredneſs of friendſhip, and all thoſe heroic and ſocial virtues, which marked them out as the objects of the veneration, though not the imitation, of ſucceeding ages; and he looked back with a kind of religious awe and delight, upon thoſe glorious and happy times of Greece and Rome, when wiſdom, virtue, and liberty, formed the only triumvirates, ere luxury invited corruption to taint, or corruption introduced ſlavery to deſtroy, all public and private virtues. In theſe ſentiments he lived, and would have lived even in theſe times: in theſe ſentiments he died — but in

theſe times too—*Ut non erepta à diis immortalibus vita, ſed donata mors eſſe videatur.*

LVII.

The Character of RICHARD, Earl of Scarborough, Auguſt 29, 1759 *.

IN drawing the character of lord Scarborough, I will be ſtrictly upon my guard againſt the partiality of that intimate and unreſerved friendſhip, in which we lived for more than twenty years; to which friendſhip, as well as to the public notoriety of it, I owe much more than my pride will let my gratitude own. If this may be ſuſpected to have biaſſed my judgment, it muſt, at the ſame time, be allowed to have informed it; for the moſt ſecret movements of his ſoul were, without diſguiſe, communicated to me only. However, I will rather lower than heighten the colouring; I will mark the ſhades, and draw a credible rather than an exact likeneſs.

He had a very good perſon, rather above the middle ſize; a handſome face, and, when he was chearful, the moſt engaging countenance imaginable; when grave, which he was oftenеſt, the moſt reſpectable one. He had in the higheſt degree the air,

* I received this piece from lady Cheſterfield. Indeed it wants no marks of authenticity. The noble author's mind and heart are painted in it in the livelieſt manner; and he who can read it without ſharing his feelings muſt have a ſoul very different from his.

manners

manners and addreſs of a man of quality, politeneſs with eaſe, and dignity without pride.

Bred in camps and courts, it cannot be ſuppoſed that he was untainted with the faſhionable vices of theſe warm climates; but (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) he dignified them, inſtead of their degrading him into any mean or indecent action. He had a good degree of claſſical, and a great one of modern, knowledge; with a juſt, and, at the ſame time, a delicate taſte.

In his common expences he was liberal within bounds; but in his charities and bounties he had none. I have known them put him to ſome preſent inconveniencies.

He was a ſtrong, but not an eloquent or florid ſpeaker in parliament. He ſpoke ſo unaffectedly the honeſt dictates of his heart, that truth and virtue, which never want, and ſeldom wear, ornaments, ſeemed only to borrow his voice. This gave ſuch an aſtoniſhing weight to all he ſaid, that he more than once carried an unwilling majority after him. Such is the authority of unſuſpected virtue, that it will ſometimes ſhame vice into decency at leaſt.

He was not only offered, but preſſed to accept, the poſt of ſecretary of ſtate; but he conſtantly refuſed it. I once tried to perſuade him to accept it; but he told me, that both the natural warmth and melancholy of his temper made him unfit for it; and that moreover he knew very well that, in thoſe miniſterial employments, the courſe of buſineſs made it neceſſary to do many hard things, and ſome unjuſt ones, which could only be authoriſed by the je-

ſuitical

ſuitical caſuiſtry of the direction of the intention; a doctrine which he ſaid he could not poſſibly adopt. Whether he was the firſt that ever made that objection, I cannot affirm; but I ſuſpect that he will be the laſt.

He was a true conſtitutional, and yet practicable patriot; a ſincere lover and a zealous aſſerter of the natural, the civil, and the religious rights of his country. But he would not quarrel with the crown, for ſome ſlight ſtretches of the prerogative; nor with the people, for ſome unwary ebullitions of liberty; nor with any one, for a difference of opinion in ſpeculative points. He conſidered the conſtitution in the aggregate, and only watched that no one part of it ſhould preponderate too much.

His moral character was ſo pure, that if one may ſay of that imperfect creature man, what a celebrated hiſtorian ſays of Scipio, *nil non laudandum aut dixit, aut fecit, aut ſenſit*; I ſincerely think, (I had almoſt ſaid I know) one might ſay it with great truth of him, one ſingle inſtance excepted, which ſhall be mentioned.

He joined to the nobleſt and ſtricteſt principles of honor and generoſity the tendereſt ſentiments of benevolence and compaſſion; and as he was naturally warm, he could not even hear of an injuſtice or a baſeneſs, without a ſudden indignation, nor of the misfortunes or miſeries of a fellow creature, without melting into ſoftneſs, and endeavouring to relieve them. This part of his character was ſo univerſally known, that our beſt and moſt ſatyrical Engliſh poet ſays;

When

When I confeſs, there is who feels for fame,
And melts to goodneſs, Scarb'rough need I name?

He had not the leaſt pride of birth and rank, that common narrow notion of little minds, that wretched miſtaken ſuccedaneum of merit; but he was jealous to anxiety of his character, as all men are who deſerve a good one. And ſuch was his diffidence upon that ſubject, that he never could be perſuaded that mankind really thought of him as they did. For ſurely never man had a higher reputation, and never man enjoyed a more univerſal eſteem. Even knaves reſpected him; and fools thought they loved him. If he had any enemies (for I proteſt I never knew one), they could only be ſuch as were weary of always hearing of Ariſtides the Juſt.

He was too ſubject to ſudden guſts of paſſion, but they never hurried him into any illiberal or indecent expreſſion or action; ſo invincibly habitual to him were good-nature and good-manners. But, if ever any word happened to fall from him in warmth, which upon ſubſequent reflection he himſelf thought too ſtrong, he was never eaſy till he had made more than a ſufficient atonement for it.

He had a moſt unfortunate, I will call it a moſt fatal kind of melancholy in his nature, which often made him both abſent and ſilent in company, but never moroſe or ſour. At other times he was a chearful and agreeable companion; but, conſcious that he was not always ſo, he avoided company too much, and was too often alone, giving way to a train of gloomy reflexions.

His

His conſtitution, which was never robuſt, broke rapidly at the latter end of his life. He had two ſevere ſtrokes of apoplexy or palſy, which conſiderably affected his body and his mind.

I deſire that this may not be looked upon as a full and finiſhed character, writ for the ſake of writing it; but as my ſolemn depoſit of the truth to the beſt of my knowledge. I owed this ſmall tribute of juſtice, ſuch as it is, to the memory of the beſt man I ever knew, and of the deareſt friend I ever had.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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